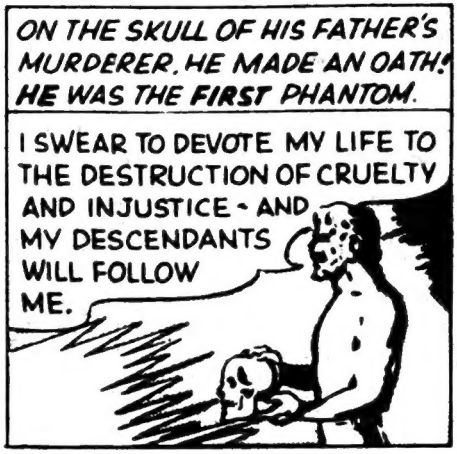
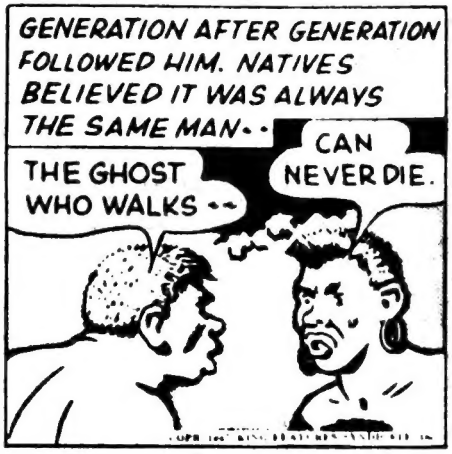
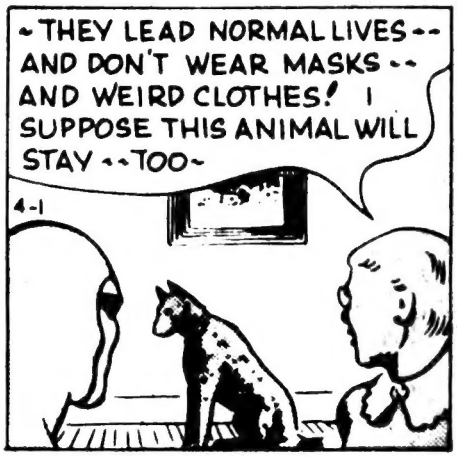
BEGINNING: "ROMANCE"
STORY OF THE PHANTOM: 400 YEARS AGO, THE LONE SURVIVOR OF A PIRATE RAID WAS WASHED ASHORE ON A REMOTE BENGALI BEACH--


ON THE SKULL OF HIS FATHER'S MURDERER, HE MADE AN OATH! HE WAS THE FIRST PHANTOM.
I SWEAR TO DEVOTE MY LIFE TO THE DESTRUCTION OF CRUELTY AND INJUSTICE - AND MY DESCENDANTS WILL FOLLOW ME.


GENERATION AFTER GENERATION FOLLOWED HIM. NATIVES BELIEVED IT WAS ALWAYS THE SAME MAN--
THE GHOST WHO WALKS--
CAN NEVER DIE.

SO THE LEGEND GREW - THE IMMORTAL NEMESIS OF EVIL-DOERS EVERYWHERE - A NAME WHISPERED, LOVED AND FEARED - THE PHANTOM!

MAMA, YOU DON'T MIND IF HE STAYS HERE WITH US A FEW DAYS, DO YOU?
HMM - MOST MEN I KNOW HAVE REGULAR JOBS--


- THEY LEAD NORMAL LIVES-- AND DON'T WEAR MASKS-- AND WEIRD CLOTHES! I SUPPOSE THIS ANIMAL WILL STAY--TOO-
4-1

BUT HOW CAN I EXPLAIN YOU - TO MY FRIENDS - TO THE SERVANTS?
DON'T TRY, MAMA.

AND DON'T CALL ME MAMA!

I CAN CERTAINLY USE SOME SHUT-EYE, DEVIL. I HAVEN'T SLEPT IN A WEEK--

EXHAUSTED - BUT CAN'T SLEEP. THIS BED'S TOO SOFT. USED TO SLEEPING ON THE GROUND--
4-2

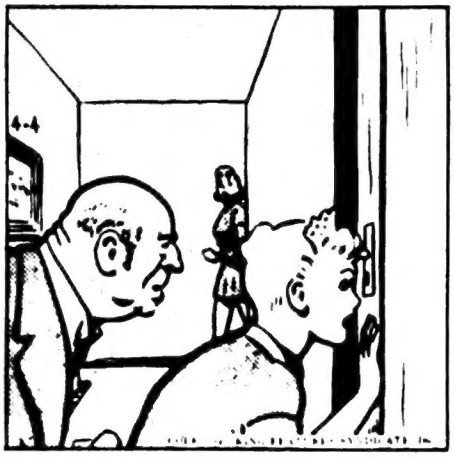
THE IDEA - SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR - AND I WON'T HAVE THAT DOG ON MY BEST BED!
NOW, MAMA-

IS HE GOING TO SLEEP ALL DAY?
HE'S USED TO SLEEPING IN THE DAY AND WORKING AT NIGHT.
4-3

LIKE A BURGLAR
MAMA, I WANT YOU TO STOP SAYING NASTY THINGS ABOUT HIM! YOU JUST WON'T UNDERSTAND HIM!

DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT MILLIONS OF PEOPLE PRACTICALLY WORSHIP HIM! HE'S LIKE AN EMPEROR IN THE JUNGLE - AND -- HE FIGHTS EVIL AND --

-- AND SLEEPS WITH HIS OUTLANDISH CLOTHES ON -- LIVES IN A CAVE - LIKE A SAVAGE. I'LL BET HE EATS RAW MEAT.


4-4

WE JUST-ER-WONDERED IF YOUR GUEST NEEDED ANYTHING -- MISS PALMER.
I ASKED YOU NOT TO DISTURB HIM. PLEASE GET HIS BREAKFAST TRAY.

IMAGINE - BREAKFAST - AT THIS HOUR OF THE NIGHT!
I'M DYING TO SEE WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE! NOW'S MY CHANCE - WHEN I TAKE IN THE TRAY --

BUT - BUT IT'S NO TROUBLE, MISS. I'LL BE GLAD TO --
THANK YOU, NORA - I'LL TAKE THE TRAY UP!

I'VE JUST GOT TO SEE WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE -- NOW'S MY CHANCE --
CAREFUL -

ALL DARK - HE MUST STILL BE ASLEEP.
4-5

I CAN TAKE A QUICK PEEK --

SUDDENLY, OUT OF THE DARKNESS, A LOW GROWL -- SHINING EYES - SHARP WHITE TEETH --
OHHHH

HELP-- HELP—
4-7

DEVIL~STOP THAT! COME HERE, YOU BAD BOY!

I'M QUITTING! I WON'T STAY IN THIS HOUSE ANOTHER MINUTE WITH THAT WILD ANIMAL~~~
BUT, NORA--

NOW~ YOU SEE! THE BEST MAID WE EVER HAD~~
DON'T BLAME DEVIL, MAMA. HIS MASTER WAS ASLEEP~ HE THOUGHT HE WAS DEFENDING HIM.

I WON'T BE FOLLOWED BY THAT WILD BEAST!
STAY THERE, DEVIL.

I WON'T HAVE THAT ANIMAL IN MY HOME, DIANA! HE'S DANGEROUS, AND.
WHAT'S THAT--?

LOOK OUT! HE'S VICIOUS!

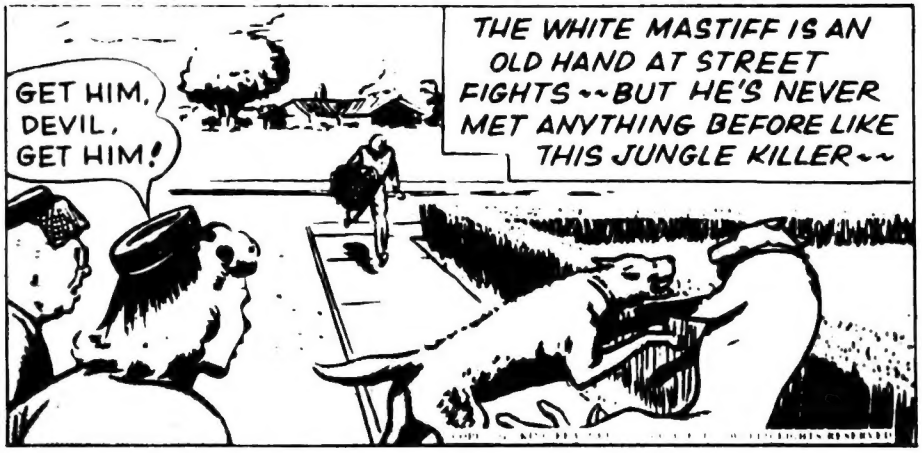
GET BEHIND ME, MAMA! HE'S REALLY NASTY--
GO AWAY~ GO AWAY--
4-8

HE'S TRYING TO BITE~~~
OH--OH--

CAREFUL~ HE'S A KILLER-- A BAD ONE --! LOOK OUT, MA'AM

AS THE WHITE MASTIFF LAUNCHES HIMSELF AT DIANA ~ A GRAY FORM FLASHES OVER THE HEDGE~

4-9


GET HIM, DEVIL, GET HIM!
THE WHITE MASTIFF IS AN OLD HAND AT STREET FIGHTS -- BUT HE'S NEVER MET ANYTHING BEFORE LIKE THIS JUNGLE KILLER --

MOST VICIOUS DOG IN TOWN -- LOOKS LIKE ALL THE FIGHT'S OUT OF YOU, BIG BOY!
4-10

DEVIL, YOU SWEET THING -- YOU'RE SO WONDERFUL
I BELIEVE HE'S BLUSHING!

I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU, YOU SWEET, BITSY BABYKINS --

- IT SOUNDED SILLY, BUT I HAD TO INVESTIGATE, MA'AM.
RUBBISH! GOOD DAY, SIR!

WHAT NONSENSE! SOMEONE COMPLAINED THAT WE HAD A WOLF IN OUR HOUSE! DID YOU EVER --
BUT IT'S TRUE, MAMA. DEVIL IS A WOLF.

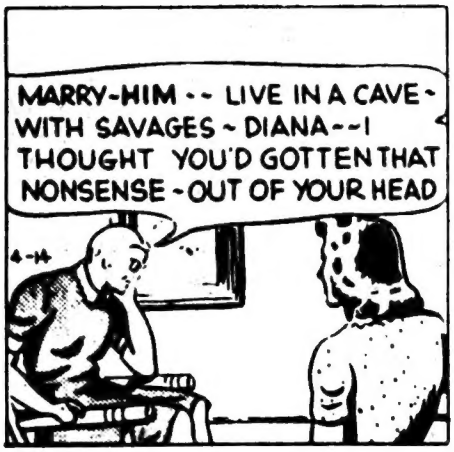
I THOUGHT HE WAS -- A DOG! THIS - THIS IS THE LAST STRAW! HE CAN'T STAY HERE!
4-11

BUT YOU SAID HE WAS SO SWEET --
I WON'T HAVE A WOLF IN THE HOUSE! AS FOR HIS MASTER --

- HE CAN GO BACK TO HIS CAVE! HE CAN'T REMAIN HERE ANOTHER DAY WITH THAT WOLF!
DON'T WORRY, MAMA. WE'LL BE LEAVING SOON.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN - "WE"?
THE PHANTOM - AND I - AS SOON AS - HE ASKS ME - TO MARRY HIM --
4-12

MARRY - HIM -- UHHHHH —
MAMA!


MARRY-HIM -- LIVE IN A CAVE - WITH SAVAGES - DIANA -- I THOUGHT YOU'D GOTTEN THAT NONSENSE - OUT OF YOUR HEAD
4-14

DARLING, I KNOW HE'S DASHING AND MYSTERIOUS -- THAT APPEALS TO ANY GIRL - IT WOULD HAVE APPEALED TO ME - BUT MARRIAGE --

- YOU WANT A NORMAL HOME AND CHILDREN - LIKE EVERYONE ELSE --
I'LL ADMIT - THERE IS ONE SLIGHT DRAWBACK -

I KNEW YOU'D HAVE MORE SENSE! WHAT IS IT?
HE HASN'T ASKED ME YET!

DAVE - DAVE! DIANA WANTS TO MARRY HIM!
IS THAT ALL? I THOUGHT THE HOUSE WAS ON FIRE.

YOU'RE MY ONLY BROTHER. I THOUGHT YOU'D - -
BE HORRIFIED? NO, ON THE CONTRARY - - I THINK IT'S A FINE IDEA. I ALWAYS HAVE.
4-15

BUT HE LIVES IN A CAVE AND - -
KINGS AND PRINCES HEED HIS SLIGHTEST WORD. HE'S A JUNGLE EMPEROR - A GREAT MAN - A LEGEND - -

IT'S AN HONOR FOR OUR FAMILY - DON'T CRY -
WHY COULDN'T SHE LOVE ONE OF THE NICE BOYS SHE WENT TO SCHOOL WITH - SOB - SOB -

I'LL NEVER GIVE MY BLESSING - NEVER - - NEVER - -
HMM - WHEN'S THE WEDDING SUPPOSED TO BE?

I DON'T KNOW. HE HASN'T ASKED HER YET.
OH, HO! MAYBE HE WON'T.

WON'T? THAT BARBARIAN? THAT MASKED - ADVENTURER? HE'D BE THE LUCKIEST MAN IN THE WORLD TO GET DIANA - AND HE KNOWS IT!

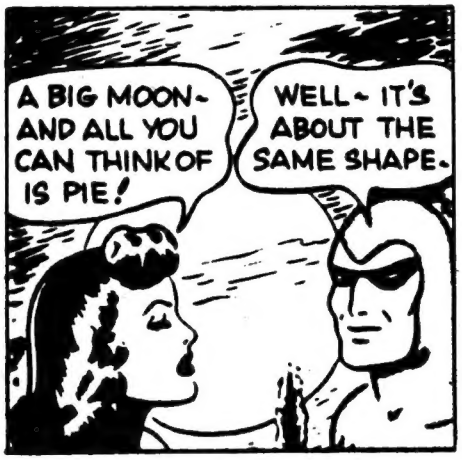
WON'T ASK HER? HE MOST CERTAINLY WILL!
4-16

HAVE A GOOD SLEEP?
WONDERFUL. AND THAT MEAL HIT THE SPOT.

THEY'RE WALKING IN THE GARDEN. THINK HE'LL ASK HER NOW?
I HOPE NOT-- I MEAN, I DON'T KNOW.

PERFUME IN THE AIR- BIG MOON- WONDERFUL NIGHT. WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
DIANA, I WAS WONDERING IF--

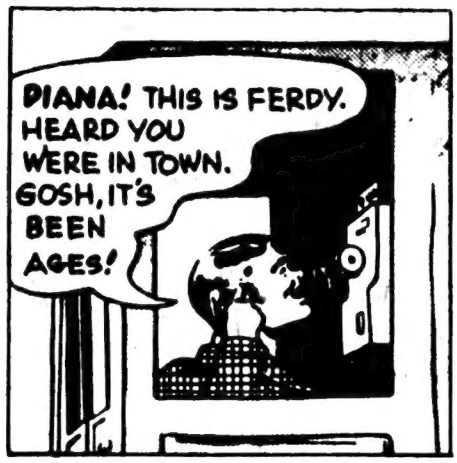
-I COULD HAVE ANOTHER PIECE OF THAT DELICIOUS CHERRY PIE. I'M STILL HUNGRY.
PIE!


A BIG MOON- AND ALL YOU CAN THINK OF IS PIE!
WELL- IT'S ABOUT THE SAME SHAPE.

DIANA- WAIT A MINUTE-

DIANA, DARLING- WHAT DID I DO? IS ANYTHING WRONG?
THE PIE'S IN THE KITCHEN- DOWNSTAIRS!

DEVIL, ARE LADY WOLVES AS HARD TO UNDERSTAND?

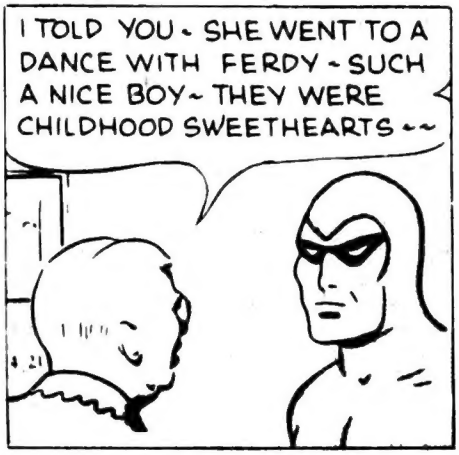

DIANA! THIS IS FERDY. HEARD YOU WERE IN TOWN. GOSH, IT'S BEEN AGES!

-I'D JUST LOVE TO GO TO THE CLUB DANCE, FERDY. IT'LL BE LIKE OLD TIMES. I'LL BE READY IN A JIFFY!

NOTHING'S HAPPENED, MAMA. I'M JUST GOING OUT!
YOU'VE COME TO YOUR SENSES! FERDY'S SUCH A NICE BOY- ONE OF OUR BEST FAMILIES, TOO.

WHERE'S DIANA?
OUT! SHE ASKED ME NOT TO WAIT UP!

GOLLY THIS IS LIKE OLD TIMES, DIANA I NEVER DREAMED YOU'D DATE ME TONIGHT. GOSH, THE GANG AT THE CLUB'LL BE SURPRISED.


I TOLD YOU - SHE WENT TO A DANCE WITH FERDY - SUCH A NICE BOY - THEY WERE CHILDHOOD SWEETHEARTS - -

MAMA IS FRIGHTENED. THE PLEASANT PHANTOM HAS SUDDENLY BECOME HARD AND COLD AS STEEL - -
WHERE IS THE DANCE?
UH - COUNTRY CLUB - LADUE ROAD - -

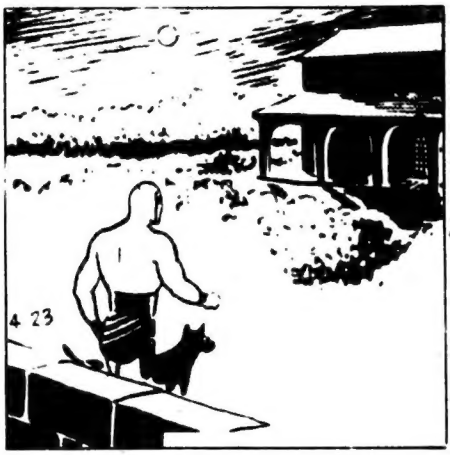
COME ON, DEVIL! FERDY, EH?

SEEMS LIKE A DREAM - TAKING YOU TO A CLUB DANCE AGAIN. REMEMBER THE OLD DAYS, DI?
I CERTAINLY DO.

DIANA PALMER! WHAT A SURPRISE!
IT'S BEEN YEARS!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

I'M KEEPING YOU AWAY FROM THAT STAG LINE! THOSE BIRDS HAVE GOT THEIR EYE ON YOU!

MAYBE MAMA WAS RIGHT. THIS IS MY WORLD - WHERE I GREW UP - - WHERE I BELONG -
4-22


4-23

DIANA, I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO TALK TO YOU SINCE WE GOT HERE - OH - OH - HERE COMES THE PACK!

THIS IS MY DANCE, DI.
FERDY CAN'T MONOP'LIZE YOU.
GET IN LINE, YOU GUYS!

FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE PHANTOM KNOWS - JEALOUSY!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME? I FEEL LIKE I'LL EXPLODE!

LEGGO, FERDY. MY TURN.
AWWW--
4-24

BUT I JUST STARTED--
ON YOUR WAY, SON.

IS THIS A MASQUERADE DANCE?
I DON'T THINK SO. BESIDES, HE LOOKS REAL.

IS HE TRYING TO CUT IN, TOO?
DEVIL!

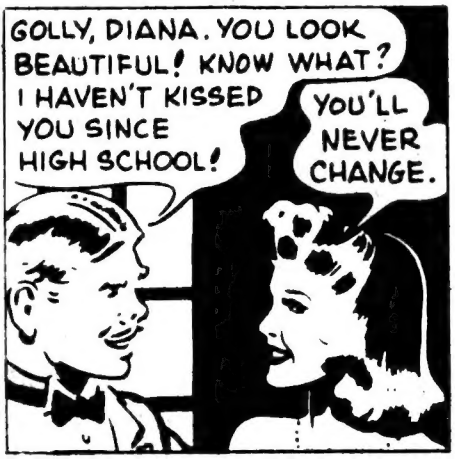
DEVIL- GO HOME!
WOOF.
I'LL GET RID OF HIM.

COME ON, BOY-- WHOA--
GRRRRRR-

I-TOLD-YOU- TO-GO-- HOME!

I GUESS- SHE DOESN'T WANT- EITHER OF US-- ANY MORE.
4-25

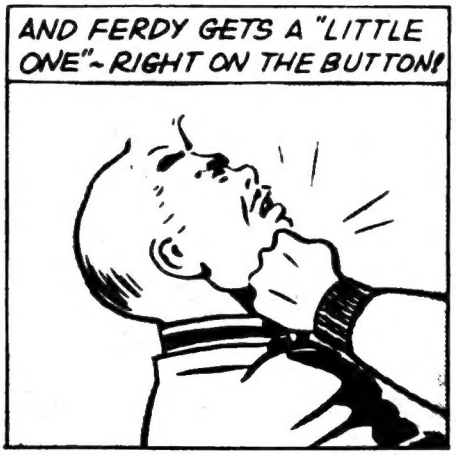
HEY--
YOU WOLVES HAVE BEEN MONOPOLIZING MY DATE ALL EVENING!


GOLLY, DIANA. YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL! KNOW WHAT? I HAVEN'T KISSED YOU SINCE HIGH SCHOOL!
YOU'LL NEVER CHANGE.

GOT TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME---
PLEASE DON'T, FERDY--
4-26

NOW, FERDY~ PLEASE~I'M NOT IN A KISSING MOOD~~
AW~ COME ON, DIANA ~ JUST A LITTLE ONE~~

4-28


AND FERDY GETS A "LITTLE ONE"~ RIGHT ON THE BUTTON!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'LL ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION!

~I'LL TAKE YOU HOME, DIANA.
YOU'LL DO NO SUCH THING!

MASKED MAN OUT THERE!
GOT DIANA!! AFTER HIM!

TROUBLED BY DIANA'S STRANGE BEHAVIOR ~ THE PHANTOM WADES INTO THEM!
COME ON, BOYS! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR!

A FIGHT AT THE COUNTRY CLUB ~ OVER ME. WHEN MOTHER HEARS ABOUT THIS~ SHE'LL JUST DIE!
4-29
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

THIS IS ONE COUNTRY CLUB DANCE THEY WON'T FORGET FOR A WHILE~~

COME ON~ THE BOYS NEED HELP!

4-30

OH, DIANA ~ WHO IS HE? HE'S~~ MAGNIFICENT!

ANY MORE?

THEN WE CAN GO.
NO~~NO~~
COPR 1947 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE Inc

5-1
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

HE'S WONDER-FUL!!
MARVELOUS!
WHAT A MAN!

PUT~ME DOWN~ THIS~INSTANT!
5-2

THAT WAS A FINE EXHIBITION. DON'T YOU KNOW THOSE PEOPLE ARE ALL MY FRIENDS? YOU MAY HAVE HURT THEM~
I DIDN'T HIT HARD~
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THAT FELLOW TRIED TO KISS YOU~
HE'S NOT A FELLOW! HE'S ONE OF MY OLDEST FRIENDS. BESIDES HE DIDN'T. I WOULDN'T LET HIM.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

ANYHOW~ WHAT BUSINESS IS IT OF YOURS?
DIANA~I~~ KNOW I WAS FOOLISH~~

DIANA~I LOST MY HEAD. WHEN THAT HAPPENS IN THE JUNGLE, YOU DON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE. BUT I HOPE YOU'LL GIVE ME ONE.

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
FORGIVE ME~~ FOR ACTING LIKE A BULL IN A CHINA SHOP.

YOU'RE FORGIVEN. HAPPY? NOW YOU CAN FORGET ALL ABOUT IT~ AND FINISH THAT PIE IN THE KITCHEN!
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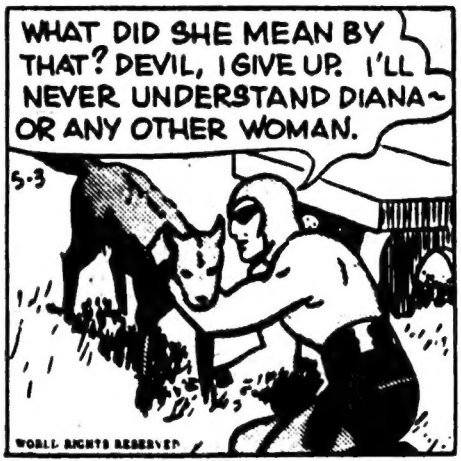

WHAT DID SHE MEAN BY THAT? DEVIL, I GIVE UP. I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND DIANA~ OR ANY OTHER WOMAN.
5-3
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

NO, DIANA'S QUITE ALL RIGHT. YES, I KNOW ALL ABOUT THE CLUB DANCE.
THAT'S THE HUNDREDTH CALL TONIGHT!

AND THE POLICE HERE TWICE-THOUGHT DIANA WAS KIDNAPPED! BY HIM! THIS IS THE LAST STRAW, DAVE! HE MUST LEAVE THIS HOUSE!

THAT BARBARIAN ~ HE ASSAULTED DOZENS OF YOUR BEST FRIENDS ~ TURNED THE CLUB DANCE INTO A SHAMBLES ~ CARRIED YOU OFF ~ AS IF YOU WERE ~~

~ HIS SWEETHEART. WHICH I AM ~ ALWAYS WAS ~ ALWAYS WILL BE! OH, MAMA ~ YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HIM! HE WAS ~ WONDERFUL!

I MADE SUCH A FOOL OF MYSELF, DEVIL. I'M ASHAMED TO SEE DIANA IN THE DAYLIGHT.

QUITE A RUCKUS AT THE CLUB DANCE
IT WAS A LULU. OH, UNCLE DAVE ~ I'VE SEEN THE PHANTOM IN A HUNDRED SITUATIONS BEFORE ~

NOBLE AS AN EMPEROR ~~ INSCRUTABLE AS AN IDOL ~ WISE AS A JUDGE ~ FIERCE AS A TIGER ~ GENTLE AS A LAMB ~~

BUT LAST NIGHT ~ HE WAS JUST A PLAIN MAN ~ JEALOUS AND IN LOVE ~ AND I'VE NEVER LOVED HIM SO MUCH IN MY LIFE!

DAVE ~ I DON'T UNDERSTAND DIANA ANY MORE.
DON'T YOU?

I LOVE HER. I THOUGHT SHE LOVED ME. BUT SHE'S BEEN ACTING SO STRANGELY LATELY. I CAN'T EVEN TALK TO HER.

MAYBE YOU DON'T SAY THE RIGHT THINGS.
HOW DO YOU MEAN?

GIRLS IN LOVE USUALLY LIKE TO GET MARRIED.
OH. OH!

DON'T YOU LIKE THE IDEA OF MARRYING DIANA?
OF COURSE-- I'VE NEVER LOVED ANYONE ELSE, DAVE.

I'VE OFTEN THOUGHT OF IT. BUT I LEAD A HARD LIFE. MY HOME'S IN A JUNGLE-- I'M CONSTANTLY EXPOSED TO DANGER- I DON'T MIND IT- I LIKE IT--
5-8

BUT DIANA- SHE'S A MODERN GIRL- USED TO COMFORT AND CIVILIZATION. YOU KNOW MY STORY. I'M THE GHOST WHO WALKS. IT'S A STRANGE LIFE--

-NOT FOR A GIRL LIKE DIANA.
SHE SEEMS TO THINK SO. WHY DON'T YOU ASK HER?

MARRY DIANA? IT'D BE WONDERFUL- TO HAVE A WIFE- CHILDREN- WOULDN'T IT, DEVIL?

THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN A PHANTOM. THE LINE MUST GO ON. BUT IT'S SUCH A TOUGH LIFE FOR A WOMAN- LIVING IN THE DEEP WOODS- NEVER SEEING HER PEOPLE--

WONDER IF DAD THOUGHT ABOUT THAT BEFORE HE PROPOSED TO MOTHER. BET HE DID. AND DIANA'S SO MUCH LIKE- SHE WAS--

WOULDN'T HURT TO ASK.
BUT MOTHER LOVED THE DEEP WOODS! SHE LOVED THE HARD LIFE OF THE PHANTOM! MAYBE DIANA WILL, TOO!
5-9

DAVE- I'M GOING TO ASK DIANA- TO MARRY ME!
GOOD BOY!

BUT- HOW'LL I DO IT? I MEAN- WHAT'LL I SAY--?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW. I'M A BACHELOR. JUST ASK HER.

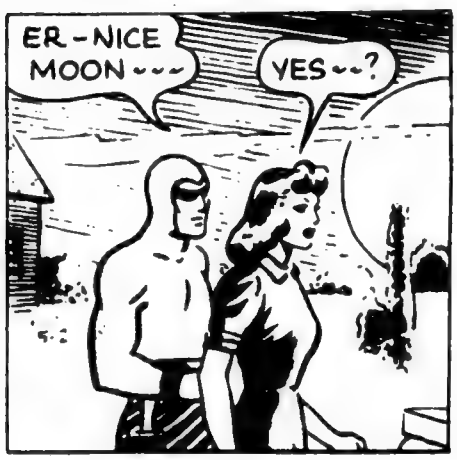
BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO GO ABOUT IT--
YOU'LL THINK OF SOMETHING. THEY ALWAYS DO. GO AHEAD.
5-10

(I'D RATHER FACE A TIGER BAREHANDED THAN GO THRU THIS)
DIANA-- DIANA--

DIANA~
GO AWAY. ALL YOU CAN THINK ABOUT~ (SOB)~ IS FOOD~~

DIANA ~ PLEASE COME OUT. I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.

TALK ABOUT WHAT? TOMORROW'S SUPPER?
LET'S GO OUTSIDE


ER ~ NICE MOON~~~
YES~~?

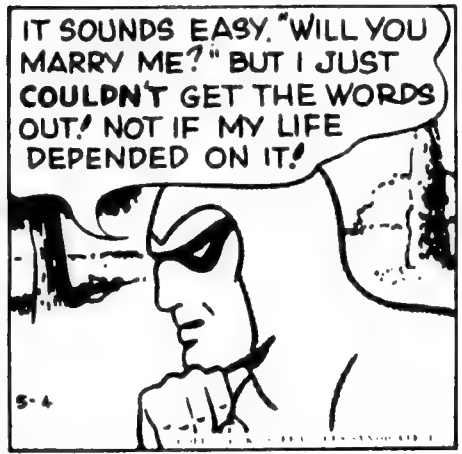
DIANA, WHAT I WANT TO ASK ~ I MEAN~
YES~~?

WOULD YOU ~ER~DO YOU THINK~ HOW ABOUT~ THAT IS~ IT SEEMS TO ME~ WILL YOU~

DIANA ~ I MEAN, DARLING~ ~ER~ WILL YOU ~ WILL YOU TELL ME WHAT~ WE'LL ~ HAVE FOR SUPPER~ TOMORROW!?

BOILED TONGUE! MAYBE IT'LL HELP YOU FIND YOURS!

HOW'D YOU DO WITH DIANA?
TERRIBLE, DAVE. I FELL APART~~ LIKE THE ONE-HORSE SHAY~~


IT SOUNDS EASY. "WILL YOU MARRY ME?" BUT I JUST COULDN'T GET THE WORDS OUT! NOT IF MY LIFE DEPENDED ON IT!

I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I'M STILL A BACHELOR. WHY DON'T YOU BUY A RING? THEN JUST SLIP IT ON HER FINGER~~

YOU WON'T HAVE TO SAY A WORD!
WONDERFUL IDEA! DAVE, YOU'RE MY FRIEND FOR LIFE!

IT'S ONLY NOON. DON'T TELL ME HE IS ACTUALLY UP!
HE WENT DOWN-TOWN TO BUY SOMETHING, MAMA.

WHAT? A BATTLE-AXE?
HE DIDN'T SAY. HE WAS MOST MYSTERIOUS.

I WANT TO BUY A DIAMOND ENGAGEMENT RING
YES, SIR. HOW LARGE A DIAMOND DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?

OH -- ABOUT SO BIG.

YOUR RING WILL BE READY IN A FEW MINUTES, SIR.
I'LL WAIT.

YES, MISS -UH-
I'VE SOME DIAMONDS I'D LIKE TO SELL. YOU BUY THEM HERE, DON'T YOU?

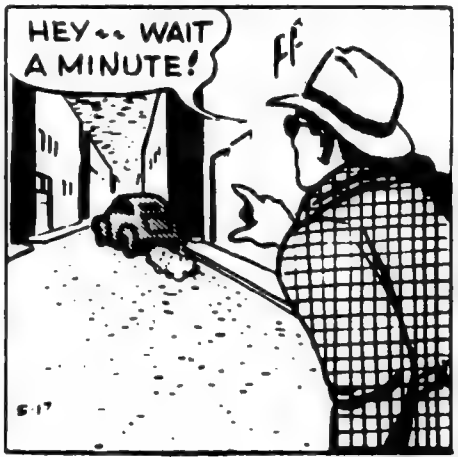
YES, BUT OUR APPRAISER IS OUT TO LUNCH JUST NOW - IF YOU CARE TO WAIT--
NO, I'LL BE BACK LATER.

MISS, IF I WERE YOU, I WOULDN'T CARRY SUCH A FORTUNE - IT'S DANGEROUS--
I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF, THANK YOU.

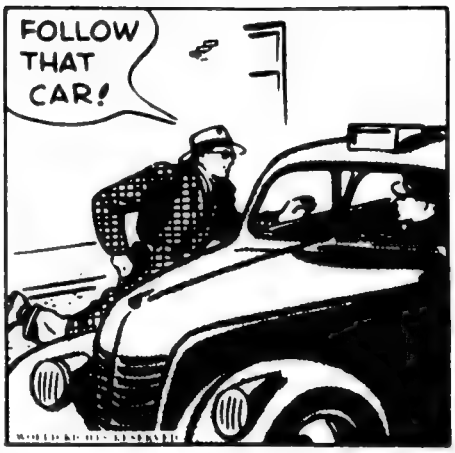
THAT GIRL DROPPED THIS DIAMOND --!

HEY - LADY - (THERE SHE IS) - YOU DROPPED THIS --

THAT MAN - WAS IN THE JEWELRY STORE --! HE SAW MY DIAMONDS! HE'S AFTER THEM!


HEY -- WAIT A MINUTE!

HEY~ LADY ~YOU DROPPED ONE OF YOUR DIAMONDS IN THE STORE~~

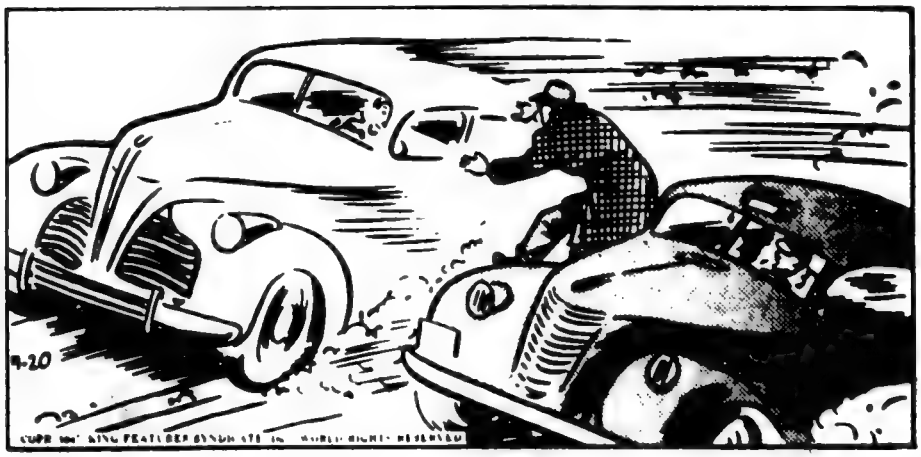

FOLLOW THAT CAR!

THAT MAN ~ SAW MY DIAMONDS IN THE JEWELRY STORE! HE TRIED TO CATCH ME ~ NOW HE'S FOLLOWING ME ~ IN A CAB!

IN BROAD DAYLIGHT, TOO! OF ALL THE BRAZEN~~!
DON'T LOSE HER!

THEY'RE CATCHING UP! I WAS A FOOL TO COME ALONE WITH ALL THESE DIAMONDS ~ I'M AFRAID TO DRIVE ANY FASTER~~

WHAT YOU UP TO, BUD?
NEVER MIND. HERE'S YOUR MONEY. PULL UP ALONGSIDE OF HER!



STOP THE CAR~ PULL OVER TO THE SIDE
NO~~ NO~I WON'T~~

I SAID~ STOP THE CAR!

SORRY TO PULL THE GUN, BUT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD STOP YOU.

YOU DROPPED THIS DIAMOND. I'VE HAD A TOUGH TIME GETTING IT BACK TO YOU.
OHHH

I THOUGHT YOU WERE TRYING TO STEAL MY DIAMONDS -- AND ALL THE TIME - YOU WERE TRYING TO RETURN ONE I DROPPED!

THE LEAST I CAN DO IS DRIVE YOU HOME
TOO LATE TO GO BACK TO THE JEWELRY STORE OKAY - THANKS.

WHERE DID HE GO, UNCLE DAVE?
I PROMISED NOT TO TELL, DIANA. BUT -- HE WENT SHOPPING --

--SOMETHING ABOUT A RING, I THINK.
AT LAST!
9-22

OH, DEVIL - I'M SO HAPPY HE'S GETTING TO THE POINT AT LAST -- BUYING A RING!

HE'S THE MOST WONDERFUL MAN IN THE WORLD - I LOVE HIM MORE THAN I EVER THOUGHT I COULD LOVE ANYBODY!

THIS IS FAR ENOUGH, THANKS. I CAN WALK UP THE HILL.
I CAN NEVER THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR RETURNING MY DIAMOND --
9-23

I'M SORRY I ACTED SO FOOLISHLY -
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, MISS.

I CAN'T WAIT FOR HIM TO GET BACK - WHAT'S THE MATTER, DEVIL?

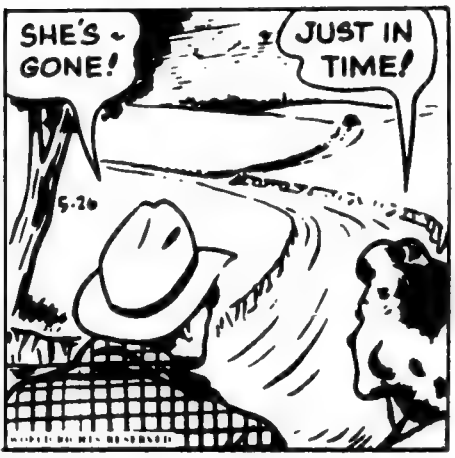
GOOD-BYE - THANKS -
9-24

DIANA - WAIT A MINUTE -- LET ME EXPLAIN --

DIANA, I CAN EXPLAIN BEING IN THE CAR WITH THAT GIRL~~
I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO EXPLAIN~~

SHE DROPPED A DIAMOND IN THE JEWELRY STORE ~~ I RAN AFTER HER TO RETURN IT ~ BUT SHE THOUGHT I WAS TRYING TO ROB HER.

AN INTERESTING STORY. WHAT'S HER NAME?
I DON'T KNOW. DIANA ~ DON'T YOU BELIEVE ME? COME ~~ SHE'LL TELL YOU~


SHE'S ~ GONE!
JUST IN TIME!
5-26

WHY INVENT SUCH A SILLY STORY? IT'S YOUR OWN AFFAIR IF YOU TAKE A RIDE WITH A GIRL!

DON'T BLAME DIANA. GIRLS IN LOVE GET JEALOUS AT THE DROP OF A HAT.
BUT, DAVE ~~ I TOLD HER THE WHOLE STORY~
5-27

IT IS A HARD STORY TO BELIEVE~ HEY ~ TAKE IT EASY! I'M ON YOUR SIDE! I BELIEVE YOU! BUT DIANA DOESN'T.
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

AND THE MORE YOU TALK, THE LESS SHE'LL BELIEVE. YOU'D BETTER FIND THAT GIRL ~ AND LET HER TELL DIANA.
HOW? I DON'T KNOW HER NAME ~ OR WHERE SHE IS!

I'VE BEEN KEEPING YOUR RING FOR YOU, SIR.
NEVER MIND THAT NOW. REMEMBER THE GIRL WHO DROPPED THE DIAMOND HERE YESTERDAY?

COULD YOU GIVE ME HER NAME AND ADDRESS?
HMM ~ I GUESS SO. SHE RETURNED LATER, AND WE BOUGHT HER DIAMONDS. PAID A FORTUNE. ~ HERE IT IS ~ MISS KERRY, HOTEL BARR~
5-28

MISS KERRY? SHE CHECKED OUT AN HOUR AGO ~ SAILING, I BELIEVE ~ S.S. "VESTA".

HEY ~ HOLD THAT GANGPLANK!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

I'VE GOT TO SEE MISS KERRY BEFORE THIS YACHT SAILS.
WHO? WAIT HERE A MINUTE.

GET RID OF HIM.

NOBODY BY THAT NAME ON BOARD.
YEAH?

YOU HEARD ME. TAKE OFF!
WHAT IS THIS? I'M NOT LOOKING FOR TROUBLE. I'VE JUST GOT TO SEE MISS KERRY.

I ONLY WANT MISS KERRY TO EXPLAIN SOMETHING TO MY GIRL - IT'S IMPORTANT.
Y'RE BREAKIN' MY HEART.

LOOK, CHUM. I TOLD YOU WE NEVER HEARD OF MISS KERRY ON THIS TUB. SO SCRAM.
BUT THEY TOLD ME AT THE HOTEL THAT SHE WAS ON THIS YACHT-

THEY TOLD YOU WRONG. WE AIN'T GOT NO DAMES ON BOARD.
"AIN'T GOT NO" IS BAD GRAMMAR. YOU SHOULD SAY-

"WE HAVEN'T ANY" - AND YOU'D STILL BE LYING! GANGWAY!

MISS KERRY EVIDENTLY DOESN'T WANT VISITORS!

BUT MY BUSINESS IS URGENT! SHE'S GOT TO EXPLAIN THINGS TO MY GIRL!

MISS KERRY! MISS KERRY!

DON'T LET THAT MAN OFF THIS SHIP! IF YOU HAVE TO KILL HIM!

WHERE'D THAT GUY GO?
HE CAME DOWN THIS HATCH!

WHAT'S ALL THE EXCITEMENT?
SOME STRANGER GOT ABOARD! WAS TRYING TO SEE YOU! WHO WOULD IT BE?

HOW SHOULD I KNOW? I DON'T KNOW ANY STRANGERS.
DON'T BE FUNNY. IF YOU SEE HIM, GIVE THE ALARM.

(STRANGER ~ LOOKING FOR ME? WONDER WHO HE IS? SOUNDS ROMANTIC ~ AND I HAVEN'T HAD ANY ROMANCE FOR A LONG TIME!)

OH ~~
DON'T BE ALARMED, MISS KERRY. I'M NOT HERE TO HARM YOU.

WHO ~~ ARE YOU?
DON'T YOU REMEMBER? I RETURNED YOUR DIAMOND ~~

OH ~ OF COURSE! HOW ON EARTH DID YOU FIND ME?
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA. I DIDN'T COME FOR A DATE.

IT'S JUST THAT I WA ~~
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE! THEY'LL NEVER LET YOU GO! THEY WON'T UNDERSTAND! THEY'LL KILL YOU!

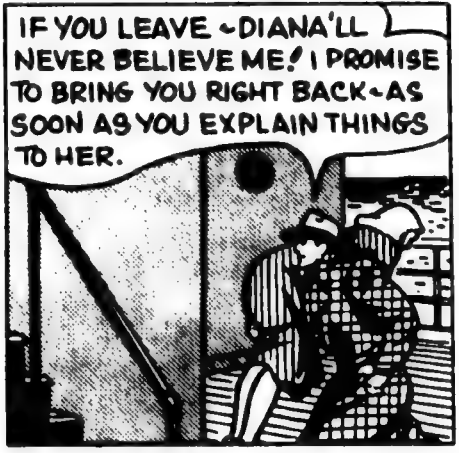
I DON'T KNOW THE SCORE ON THIS YACHT, MISS KERRY. OBVIOUSLY, SOMETHING SHADY IS GOING ON ~ BUT THAT'S NOT MY BUSINESS NOW.

MY GIRL SAW US IN YOUR CAR ~ AND MISUNDERSTOOD. I WANT YOU TO EXPLAIN TO HER THAT THERE WAS NOTHING TO IT.
SO THAT'S IT!

I'M SORRY. I'D LIKE TO HELP YOU ~ BUT WE'RE SAILING AT ONCE. YOU'LL BE LUCKY IF YOU GET OFF ~~

STOP ~ WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SORRY, MISS KERRY ~ YOU'VE JUST GOT TO CLEAR ME WITH MY GIRL!

NO ~ PUT ME DOWN!
SORRY ~ THE SHIP CAN WAIT ~~


IF YOU LEAVE ~ DIANA'LL NEVER BELIEVE ME! I PROMISE TO BRING YOU RIGHT BACK ~ AS SOON AS YOU EXPLAIN THINGS TO HER.

ARE YOU MAD? I CAN'T GO WITH YOU!
SORRY, MISS KERRY ~ YOU GOT ME INTO A FIX WITH MY GIRL ~ YOU'LL HAVE TO UNFIX ME.

UH ~~~

UNCLE DAVE ~ MAYBE HIS STORY WAS TRUE ~ ABOUT THE GIRL.
TIME YOU GOT SENSIBLE, DIANA.

YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW THAT THE PHANTOM'S CLEVER ~ BUT NOT ABOUT WOMEN. AND HE'S NOT THE FLIRTATIOUS TYPE.

I'LL BET ANYTHING HE'S NEVER EVEN LOOKED AT ANY OTHER WOMAN
I KNOW I WAS A FOOL ~~

IT WAS JUST SO UNEXPECTED ~ SEEING HIM WITH HER IN THAT CAR ~ I GUESS I LOST MY HEAD ~ I LOVE HIM SO MUCH ~ THE POOR DARLING ~~

BUT WHERE DID HE GO, UNCLE DAVE?
TO TRY AND FIND THAT GIRL ~~ SO SHE COULD EXPLAIN TO YOU THAT THERE WAS NOTHING BETWEEN THEM.

OH, HOW ABSURD.
NOW DO YOU MIND IF I FINISH MY PAPER? I'VE HAD ENOUGH LOVE THIS AFTERNOON.

WHERE CAN HE BE? SHE WAS AWFULLY PRETTY ~ LOOKED LIKE A LITTLE FLIRT ~ SHE'S PROBABLY TELLING HIM I DON'T UNDER ~ STAND HIM!

WHAT MYSTERY HAS THE PHANTOM STUMBLED INTO?
SPEAK FAST, KERRY! WHO IS THIS MAN?

WHAT'S THIS MAN DOING HERE, KERRY? WHO IS HE?

IT'S ~ SO SILLY, PATCH. I TOLD YOU HOW I LOST THAT DIAMOND. HE RETURNED IT. HIS GIRL SAW HIM WITH ME~~
I RECALL. AND?

~AND GOT JEALOUS. HE WANTED ME TO EXPLAIN TO HER. I DON'T EVEN KNOW HIS NAME ~ POOR ROMEO.

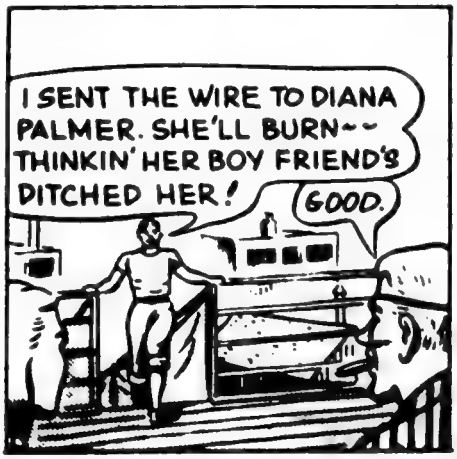
NO IDENTIFICATION ON HIM, SIR.
THAT RING!

WHAT ABOUT THE RING? IT HAS A SKULL ON IT.
NOTHING. FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT~

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO HE IS. WE CAN'T ALLOW HIM TO REPORT US. HAS HE ANY PEOPLE WHO'D SEARCH FOR HIM?

HE WAS STAYING WITH DIANA PALMER'S FAMILY. TALESEND ROAD. HE TOLD ME, WHEN I DROVE HIM HOME~~

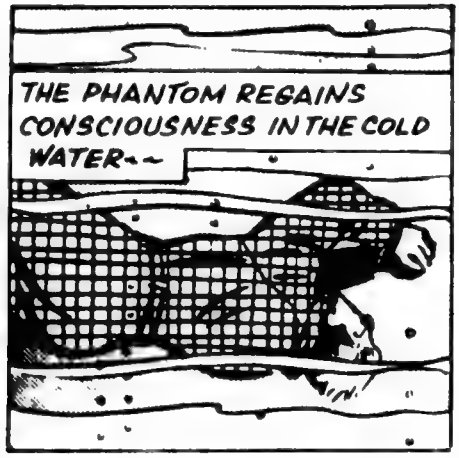
GOOD. SEND A WIRE TO DIANA PALMER. "TAKING CRUISE. WILL NOT RETURN". NO NAME NEEDED. SHE'LL KNOW IT'S FROM HER ROMEO.


I SENT THE WIRE TO DIANA PALMER. SHE'LL BURN~~ THINKIN' HER BOY FRIEND'S DITCHED HER!
GOOD.

BUT~ YOU CAN'T KILL HIM! HE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT US! HE WANTED ME~ TO FIX HIS ROMANCE!

HE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT~ UGH ~ HE WEIGHS A TON~~

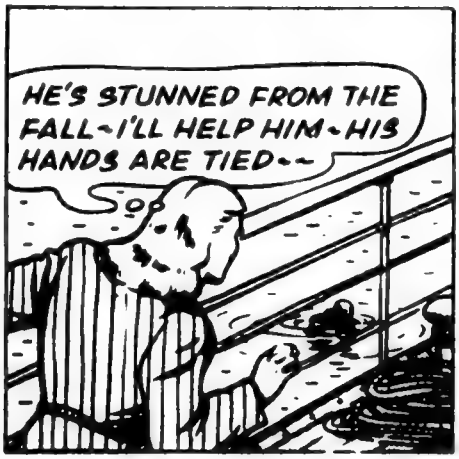
HIS ROMANCE IS "FIXED" NOW~~ FOREVER.


THE PHANTOM REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE COLD WATER--

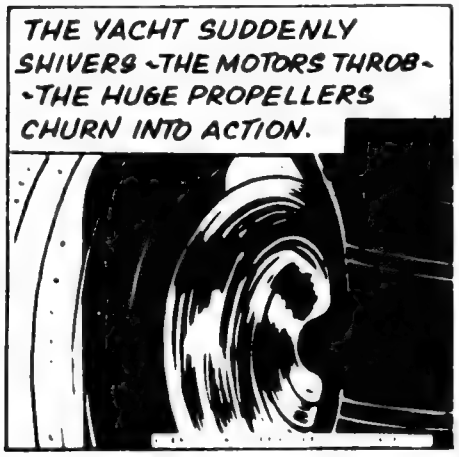
HANDS TIED, HE FIGHTS HIS WAY TO THE SURFACE--
WHAT KIND OF SKULDUGGERY IS GOING ON ABOARD THAT YACHT?

DON'T WORRY YOUR PRETTY HEAD ABOUT THAT STRANGER, KERRY. WE'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO THINK ABOUT.

HE'S STILL ALIVE!


HE'S STUNNED FROM THE FALL-I'LL HELP HIM-HIS HANDS ARE TIED--

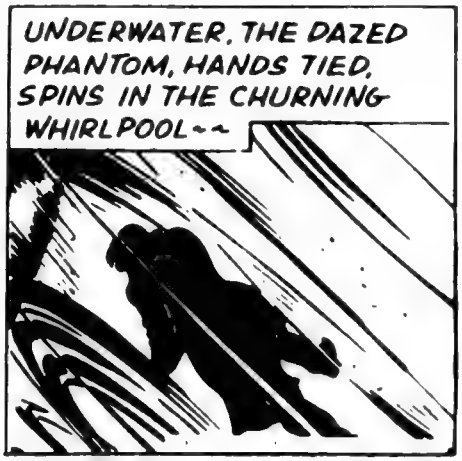
IF THEY SEE ME DOING THIS-THEY'LL THROW ME IN WITH HIM!


THE YACHT SUDDENLY SHIVERS-THE MOTORS THROB--THE HUGE PROPELLERS CHURN INTO ACTION.

TOO LATE-THE PROPELLERS-HAVE PULLED HIM-DOWN!

HE ALMOST REACHED THE ROPE-WHEN THE PROPELLERS STARTED, AND DRAGGED HIM UNDER-

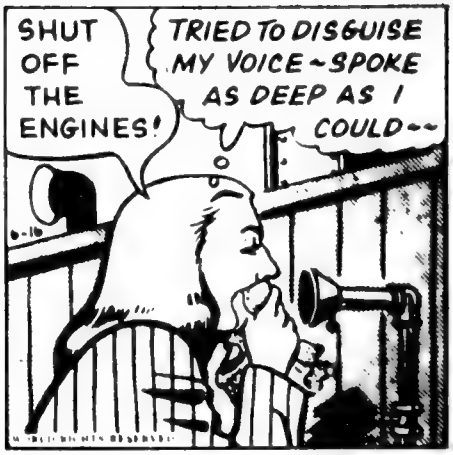
I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING-- WHAT--?


UNDERWATER, THE DAZED PHANTOM, HANDS TIED, SPINS IN THE CHURNING WHIRLPOOL--

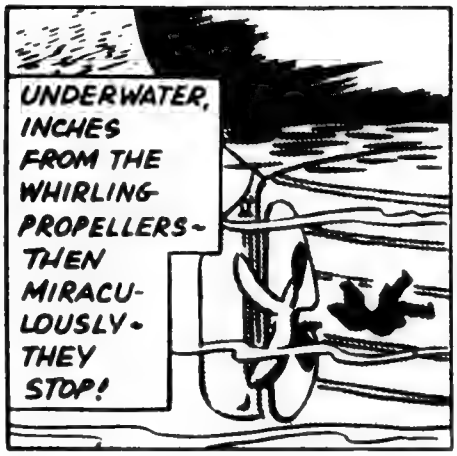
-AND IS RELENTLESSLY PULLED TOWARDS THE SHARP WHIRLING PROPELLERS!

HANDS TIED, BUT FIGHTING HARD, THE PHANTOM IS DRAGGED UNDERWATER TOWARDS THE CHURNING PROPELLERS--

THANK GOODNESS ~ NO ONE ON THE BRIDGE! IF THEY CATCH ME--


SHUT OFF THE ENGINES!
TRIED TO DISGUISE MY VOICE ~ SPOKE AS DEEP AS I COULD--

WHAT'S A IDEA? I THOUGHT THEY WAS READY TO GO!


UNDERWATER, INCHES FROM THE WHIRLING PROPELLERS ~ THEN MIRACULOUSLY ~ THEY STOP!

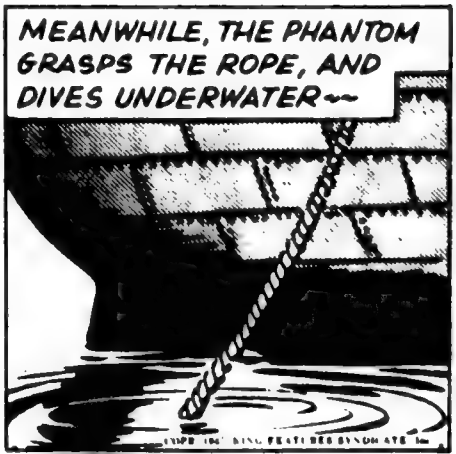
QUICKLY, HE SLASHES HIS WRIST ROPES AGAINST THE SHARP EDGE OF THE PROPELLER--
GOT TO FREE MY HANDS!

AHH ~ AIR ~ ANOTHER SECOND ~ AND I'D HAVE BEEN A GONER~

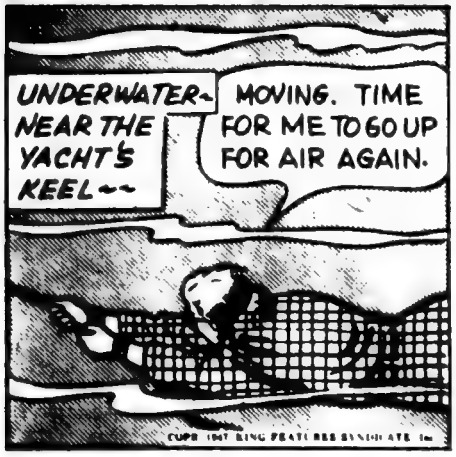
ENGINE ROOM! WHY DID YOU STOP THE ENGINES? WE'RE READY TO GO! ORDER FROM ME? YOU HAD NO SUCH THING!
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED

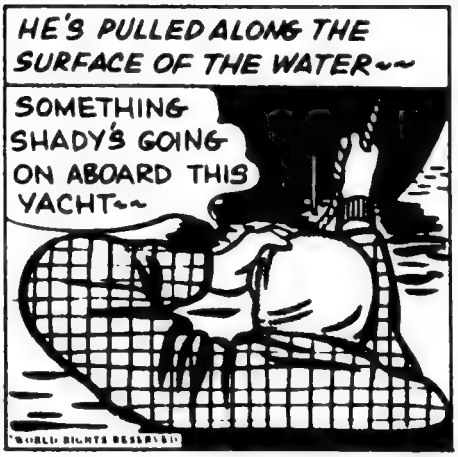
I'M TELLIN' YA I GOT A ORDER THRU THIS TUBE TO SHUT OFF THE ENGINES!

YOU WERE HEARING THINGS! NOBODY GAVE YOU THE ORDER FROM HERE! WELL ~ WARM 'EM UP! WE'RE READY TO LEAVE!


MEANWHILE, THE PHANTOM GRASPS THE ROPE, AND DIVES UNDERWATER--

THERE GO THE PROPELLERS AGAIN. NO SIGN OF HIM ~ I TRIED TO HELP ~ I GUESS ~ THE PROPS ~ GOT HIM--
WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED


UNDERWATER~ NEAR THE YACHT'S KEEL~~
MOVING. TIME FOR ME TO GO UP FOR AIR AGAIN.


HE'S PULLED ALONG THE SURFACE OF THE WATER~~
SOMETHING SHADY'S GOING ON ABOARD THIS YACHT~~

HE GRADUALLY SLIPS OFF HIS OUTER CLOTHING~~
DIANA'LL PROBABLY WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO ME~BUT I'M GOING TO STICK WITH THIS TUB~~

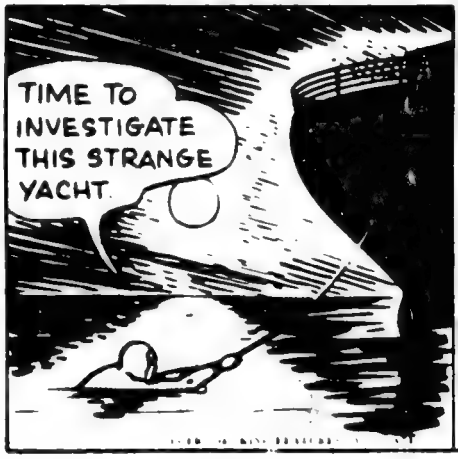
THEY DIDN'T KNOW ME FROM ADAM~BUT TRIED TO KILL ME, BECAUSE I GOT ABOARD. SOMETHING CROOKED IS COOKING!

TELEGRAM FOR DIANA PALMER. SIGN HERE, MISS.
I'M DIANA PALMER.

SHE READS THE FALSE MESSAGE, SENT FROM THE AJAX~
"GOING ON CRUISE. WILL NOT RETURN." AM I SEEING THINGS? "GOING ON CRUISE. WILL NOT RETURN."

HE RAN OFF~~ WITH THAT GIRL~~

HE COULDN'T ~ LEAVE ME~ LIKE THIS! SOB~~ BUT HE DID~~ SOB~~~


TIME TO INVESTIGATE THIS STRANGE YACHT.

GOSH KNOWS WHERE THEY'RE HEADED~OR WHAT THEY'RE UP TO. WONDER HOW THE GIRL FITS IN? SHE SEEMED NICE~~

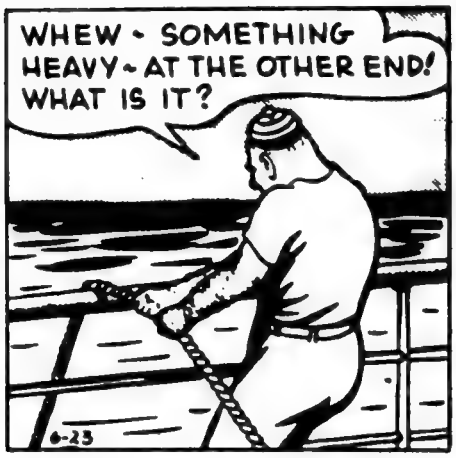
IF ANYONE SPOTS ME FROM THE DECK, I'M A DEAD DUCK~~

WHAT'S THAT ROPE DOING THERE?
I DON'T KNOW, SIR.

THE PHANTOM SLIDES SWIFTLY DOWN THE ROPE--
SOMEONE'S UP THERE!

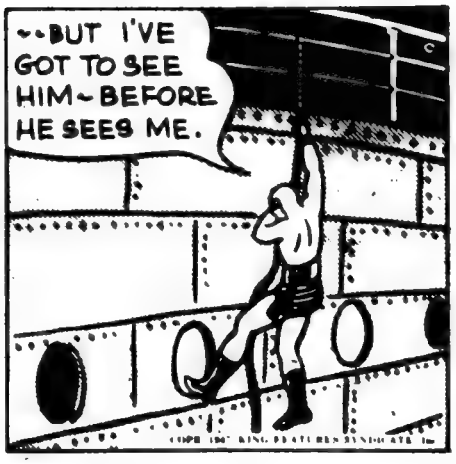
DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING HIT THE WATER?
NO, SIR.

WELL, PULL THAT ROPE UP. SHOULDN'T BE LEFT THERE. SOMEONE MIGHT TRIP OVER IT.

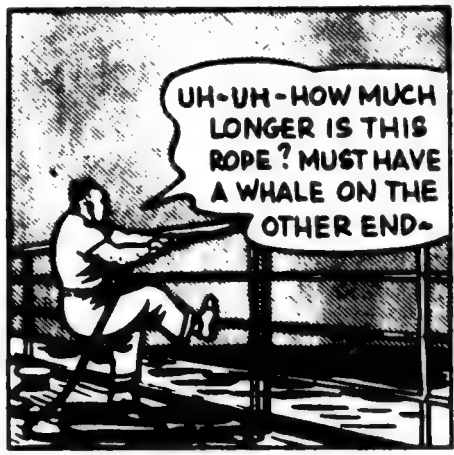

WHEW - SOMETHING HEAVY - AT THE OTHER END! WHAT IS IT?
6-23

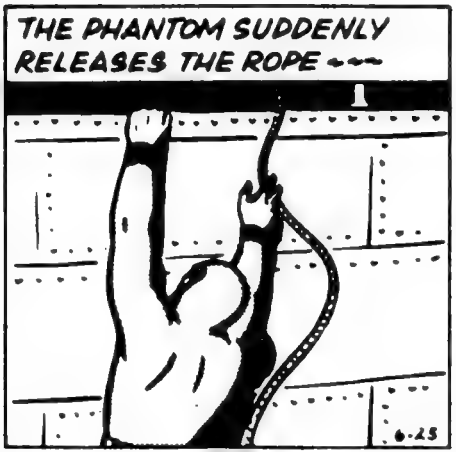
WHEW-- HEAVY! MUST BE A BARREL--

THIS IS EASIER THAN CLIMBING. DON'T KNOW WHO'S PULLING ME UP--


--BUT I'VE GOT TO SEE HIM - BEFORE HE SEES ME.

6-24

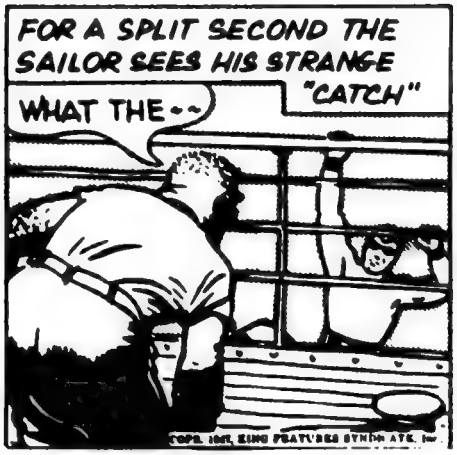

UH-UH - HOW MUCH LONGER IS THIS ROPE? MUST HAVE A WHALE ON THE OTHER END-

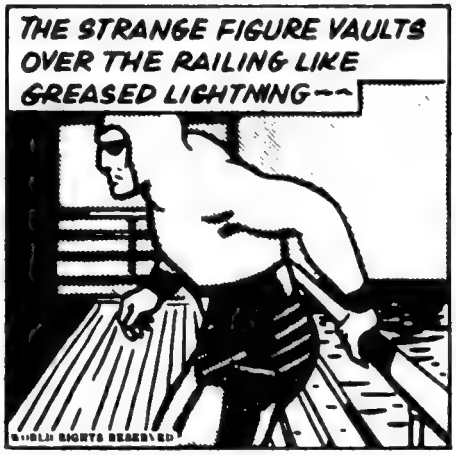

THE PHANTOM SUDDENLY RELEASES THE ROPE ---
6-25

OOPS ---

WHATEVER I WAS HAULING UP--IT GOT AWAY - NOW-- I'LL NEVER KNOW--

AM I SEEING THINGS --?


FOR A SPLIT SECOND THE SAILOR SEES HIS STRANGE "CATCH"
WHAT THE --

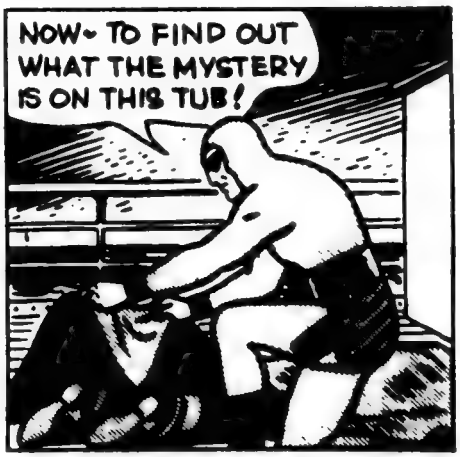

THE STRANGE FIGURE VAULTS OVER THE RAILING LIKE GREASED LIGHTNING --

BEFORE HE CAN UTTER A WARNING CRY, IRON HANDS ARE AT HIS THROAT --
6-26

WAS I DREAMING - OR DID I SEE FEET IN THAT PORTHOLE - FOR JUST A SECOND?
6-27

I MUST HAVE BEEN DREAMING --

BUT ON THE DECK ABOVE, SOMEONE IS REALLY GOING TO DREAMLAND!


NOW - TO FIND OUT WHAT THE MYSTERY IS ON THIS TUB!

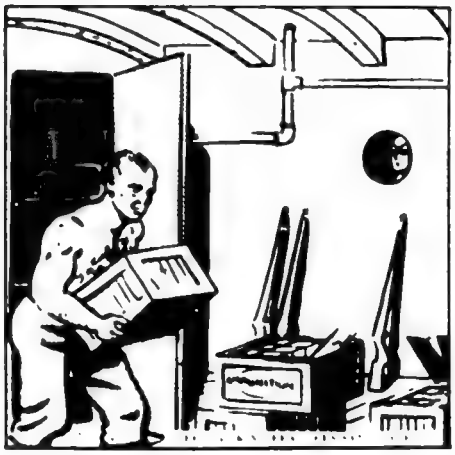
DIANA - WHY ARE YOU CRYING? WHAT'S HAPPENED? PLEASE UNLOCK THE DOOR.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT --
I FOUND THIS TELEGRAM ON THE STAIRS, WHERE SHE DROPPED IT. IT'LL EXPLAIN.

"GOING ON CRUISE. WILL NOT RETURN." - BUT WHO SENT IT? THERE'S NO NAME --
FROM THE PHANTOM, OBVIOUSLY --

AFTER ALL HIS TALK ABOUT GETTING A RING - AND MARRIAGE - I EXPECTED IT, ALL ALONG!
IT'S A SHOCK TO ME. I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!

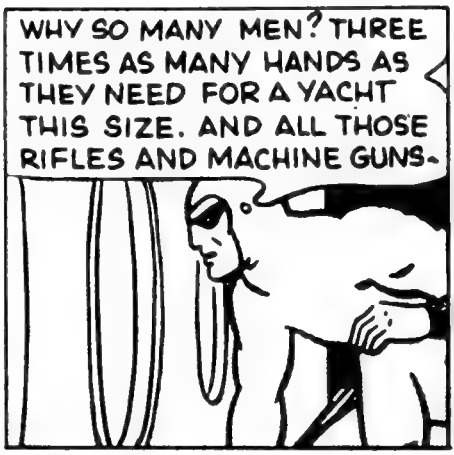
NIGHT, ABOARD THE S.S. VESTA - IN MID-OCEAN.



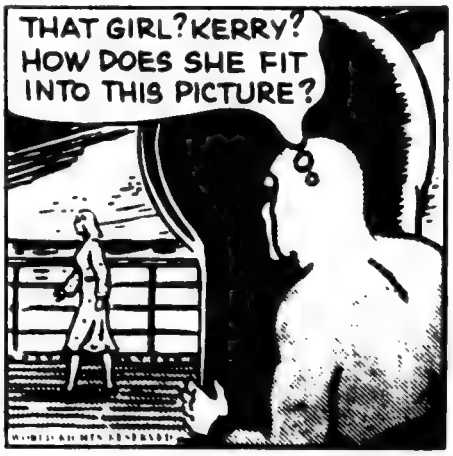
THIS SHIP'S ARMED TO THE TEETH. MORE LIKE A WARSHIP THAN A PLEASURE YACHT! WHY?

WHY ARE THEY SO AFRAID OF STRANGERS? MY FIRST VISIT WAS HARMLESS - YET THEY TRIED TO KILL ME. WHAT GOES HERE?
6-30

ABOARD THE S.S. VESTA AT SEA.


WHY SO MANY MEN? THREE TIMES AS MANY HANDS AS THEY NEED FOR A YACHT THIS SIZE. AND ALL THOSE RIFLES AND MACHINE GUNS-

I'LL DISCOVER THE MYSTERY OF THIS YACHT SOON, IF I'M NOT DISCOVERED FIRST. OOPS - SOMEONE COMING!
7-1


THAT GIRL? KERRY? HOW DOES SHE FIT INTO THIS PICTURE?

I KEEP THINKING OF THAT ROMEO - THAT POOR SAP - WHO WANTED ME TO CLEAR HIM WITH HIS GIRL.

HARMLESS GOOF. HE WALKED INTO A HORNETS' NEST. THEY KILLED HIM - I TRIED TO SAVE HIM - THAT HELPS MY CONSCIENCE - -

TO THINK - I DIDN'T KNOW HIS NAME - DIDN'T EVEN SEE HIS FACE - BET HE WAS HANDSOME - -

HEY - WHAT'S THIS? KERRY - THERE'S SOMEBODY UNDER THIS CANVAS!
7-2

IT'S MIKE!
IS HE-- DEAD--?

I JUST FOUND HIM, PATCH, UNDER THE CANVAS.
I LEFT HIM ONLY A SHORT TIME AGO-TO PULL A ROPE UP-

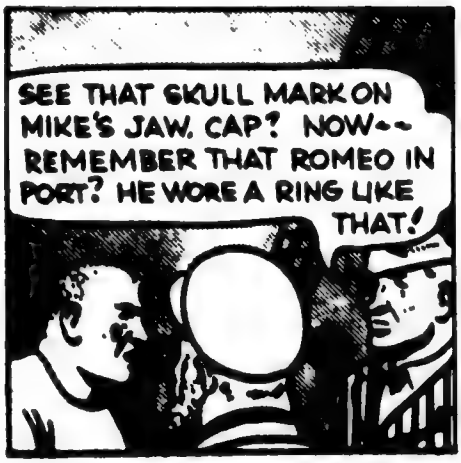
HE'S STILL BREATHING-UNCONSCIOUS.
WHAT'S THAT ON HIS JAW? LOOKS LIKE A SKULL!

WHY'D THAT SKULL MARK SCARE YOU SO, PATCH?
NEVER MIND! COME TO, MIKE!

UHH-- UHH--
MIKE! WHAT HAPPENED- WHEN YOU PULLED UP THAT ROPE?

NOT SURE-A GUY CAME OVER THE RAIL AT ME-THOUGHT I WAS SEEIN' THINGS. US IN MID-OCEAN. HOW COULD A GUY COME OUT OF THE OCEAN?

WAS HE THE GUY WE TOSSED OVERBOARD-IN PORT?
HE LOOKED LIKE NOBODY I EVER SEEN BEFORE-LIKE NOTHIN' HUMAN--


SEE THAT SKULL MARK ON MIKE'S JAW, CAP? NOW-- REMEMBER THAT ROMEO IN PORT? HE WORE A RING LIKE THAT!

SO WHAT, PATCH? WE TOSSED HIM OVERBOARD, TIED AND UNCONSCIOUS, 300 MILES BACK. THE PROPELLERS FINISHED HIM.

SUPPOSE THEY DIDN'T! SUPPOSE NOTHING COULD FINISH HIM!
WHAT YOU GETTIN' AT, PATCH?

DID YOU EVER HEAR OF THE GHOST WHO WALKS? DID YOU EVER HEAR OF THE PHANTOM?

WHAT SAILOR HASN'T HEARD OF THE PHANTOM ~ 'MAN WHO CANNOT DIE'? A SUPER-STITION, PATCH, LIKE THE FLYING DUTCHMAN.

SOMEONE ORDERED THE ENGINES CUT OFF, THRU THIS SPEAKING TUBE. A MYSTERIOUS VOICE! IT COULD HAVE BEEN THE PHANTOM'S~

SPEAKING FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN? PATCH, YOU HAVE GOT THE SHAKES!
THEN WHOSE VOICE WAS IT?

HOPE PATCH NEVER LEARNS I ORDERED THE ENGINES STOPPED ~ TRYING TO SAVE THAT POOR GUY.

PATCH, YOU'RE LOCO!
YEAH? SOMEBODY BOARDED THIS SHIP IN MID-OCEAN! SOME-BODY SLUGGED MIKE!

HOW ABOUT THAT SKULL MARK ON HIS JAW?
MIKE PROBABLY GOT SLUGGED ASHORE IN A BRAWL ~ BUT-- WE'LL SEARCH THE SHIP TO SATISFY YOU.

ISSUE ARMS TO ALL HANDS. ALL HANDS ON DECK. DETAIL SEARCHING PARTIES.

~SEARCH FOR STOW~ AWAY. COVER EVERY INCH OF SHIP!

WHAT KINDA LOOKIN' GUY IS THIS STOWAWAY?
DON'T KNOW. CAP JUST SAID "FIND 'IM"

THE SHIP IS SEARCHED FROM TOP DECK TO KEEL--

THEY'VE SEARCHED EVERYWHERE, PATCH--
CAPTAIN'S QUAR
KEEP OUT

YOUR BOGEYMAN'S NOT ON THE SHIP, SO RELAX.

FORGET THE PHANTOM, PATCH. MIKE WAS SEEING THINGS.

MIKE HITS THE BOTTLE, YOU KNOW.
I GUESS SO, CAP. I'M JUST KINDA NERVOUS TONIGHT - WITH THAT BIG JOB TOMORROW.
7-10

GET SOME SLEEP. YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO BE NERVOUS TOMORROW.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

WHAT BIG JOB? I'LL SOON KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT THIS MYSTERY YACHT!

TOMORROW - I'LL KNOW WHAT THIS GANG IS UP TO - -
7-11

WONDER HOW DIANA IS? SHE'S PROBABLY WORRIED THAT I HAVEN'T COME BACK - IF I COULD ONLY GET A CABLE TO HER - -

BUT UNKNOWN TO THE PHANTOM, A FALSE WIRE WAS SENT BY PATCH.
HE'S GONE AWAY - FOR GOOD - -
GOING ON CRUISE WILL NOT RETURN.

WENT AWAY - WITH THAT GIRL IN THE CAR - OH, DEVIL - SHE WAS AWFULLY PRETTY - -

I HATE HIM - I HATE HIM - I NEVER WANT TO SEE HIM AGAIN!

OH - I KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE! I'LL ALWAYS LOVE HIM - - IF I WERE A MAN - AND THIS HAPPENED - -
7-12

- I COULD CHASE AFTER THEM FIGHT FOR WHAT IS MINE! WHY WASN'T I BORN A MAN!?

AT LEAST, I DON'T HAVE TO STAY HERE AND MOPE! I CAN GO, TOO! WHERE? ANYWHERE! JUST GO!

DIANA-WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I DON'T KNOW, MAMA. JUST- -AWAY.

WE ALL KNOW HE RAN OFF WITH THAT GIRL. YOU SAID HE WASN'T THE TYPE, UNCLE DAVE.
I STILL DON'T THINK HE IS.

HE WOULDN'T HAVE LEFT FOREVER-- NOT WITHOUT DEVIL.
HE CAN COME BACK FOR DEVIL- -NOT FOR ME.

BESIDES, I DON'T CARE IF HE DOES COME BACK. I NEVER WANT TO SEE HIM AGAIN!

DIANA, YOU CAN'T LEAVE LIKE THIS. WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
PLEASE DON'T TRY TO STOP ME, UNCLE DAVE.

THAT WIRE FROM THE PHANTOM COULD BE A MISTAKE, YOU KNOW. WHAT IF HE COMES BACK? WHERE WILL YOU BE?

I DON'T WANT HIM TO KNOW WHERE I'M GOING. HE DOESN'T CARE, ANYHOW.

GOOD-BYE - DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME --

DIANA'S GONE- BUT DON'T WORRY- SHE CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF.
I NEVER TRUSTED THAT MASKED HOODLUM.

THE PHANTOM'S NOT THAT- HE'S A GREAT GENTLEMAN. THAT'S WHY I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE WIRE --
IT'S CLEAR ENOUGH TO ME!

"GOING ON CRUISE. WILL NOT RETURN." NO NAME ON IT. HOW DO WE KNOW HE SENT IT. IT DOESNT SOUND LIKE HIM.

AT LEAST, DEVIL'S STAYING WITH US.
THAT'S ALL WE NEED!

THAT'S THE SHIP WE'RE LOOKING FOR. THE S.S. "AJAX."
BIG BABY. LUXURY LINER.

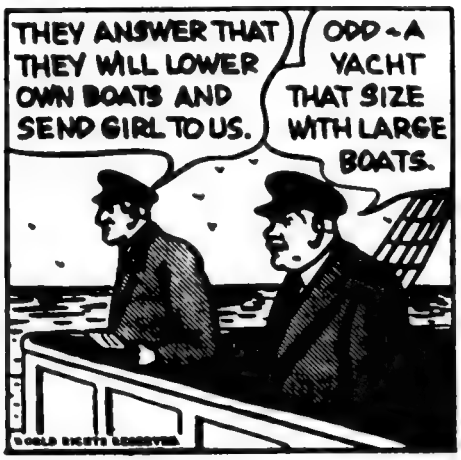
BIG JOB'S AHEAD. HOW YOU FEELING. KERRY?
NEVER FELT BETTER IN MY LIFE, PATCH.

SEND A MESSAGE TO THE "AJAX"-"GIRL WITH APPENDICITIS ABOARD. HAVE YOU A DOCTOR?"
WHAT'S UP?
7-17

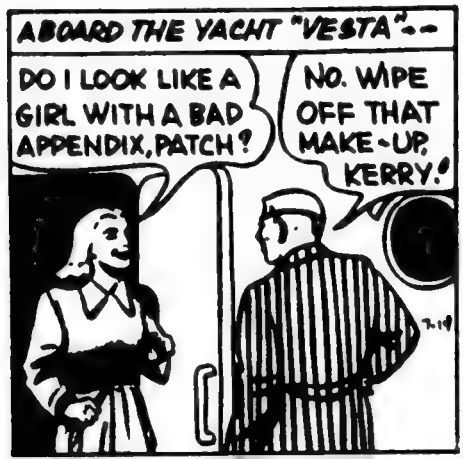
ABOARD THE LUXURY LINER "AJAX".
MESSAGE FROM SS "VESTA"- "GIRL WITH APPENDICITIS ABOARD. HAVE YOU A DOCTOR?" TAKE IT TO THE CAPTAIN.
7-18

THE "VESTA" IS THAT YACHT OUT THERE, SIR.
RADIO THEM THAT WE HAVE A DOCTOR ABOARD. WE'LL LOWER A BOAT AND SEND FOR THE GIRL.

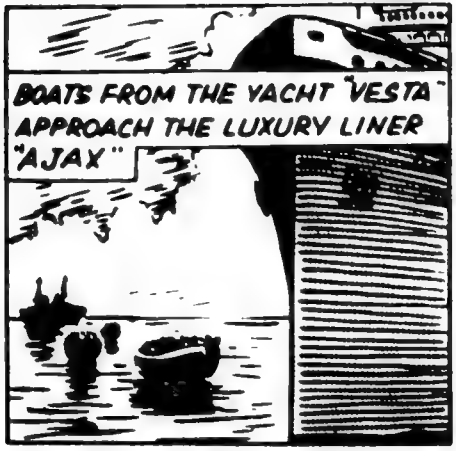
THEY REPLIED THAT THEY HAVE A DOCTOR AND WILL SEND A BOAT FOR THE GIRL
GOOD. RETURN THIS MESSAGE TO THE "AJAX."

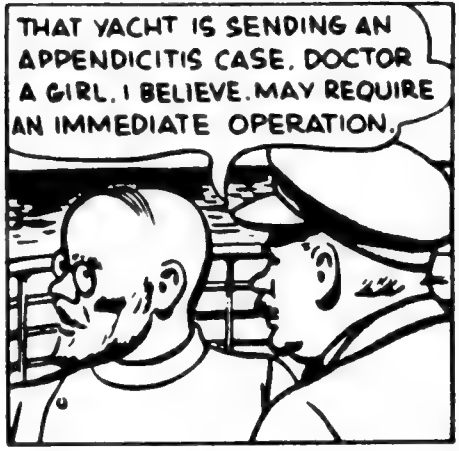

THEY ANSWER THAT THEY WILL LOWER OWN BOATS AND SEND GIRL TO US.
ODD - A YACHT THAT SIZE WITH LARGE BOATS.

ABOARD THE "AJAX"-LUXURY LINER-
WHAT'S THE TROUBLE, CAPTAIN?
GIRL ON THAT YACHT HAS APPENDICITIS. WE'RE PICKING HER UP.


ABOARD THE YACHT "VESTA"--
DO I LOOK LIKE A GIRL WITH A BAD APPENDIX, PATCH?
NO. WIPE OFF THAT MAKE-UP, KERRY!
7-19

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?


BOATS FROM THE YACHT "VESTA" APPROACH THE LUXURY LINER "AJAX"


THAT YACHT IS SENDING AN APPENDICITIS CASE, DOCTOR A GIRL. I BELIEVE. MAY REQUIRE AN IMMEDIATE OPERATION.

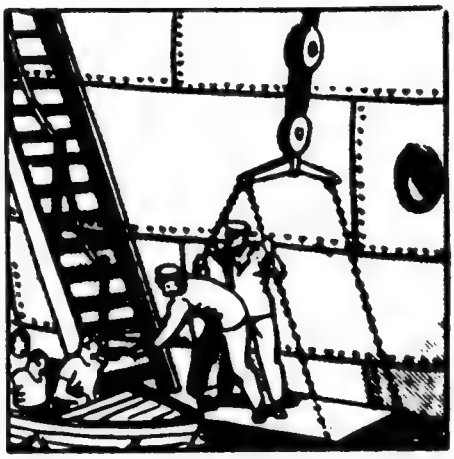
ISN'T THIS SIMPLY FASCINATING?
THEY SAY IT'S A GIRL WONDER IF SHE'S PRETTY?

NERVOUS, KERRY?
A LITTLE. I HOPE EVERYTHING GOES ALL RIGHT

KEEP YOUR RIFLES HANDY WAIT FOR THE USUAL SIGNAL FROM ME

LIE BACK YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE APPENDICITIS
YEAH -- REMEMBER - I'M JUST SUPPOSED TO.

DON'T WAIT TOO LONG I DON'T WANT THAT DOC TO START CARVING ME!
QUIET. THEY'RE PROBABLY WATCHING US THRU GLASSES.



STRANGE - WHY DID THEY NEED SO MANY MEN TO BRING THE GIRL FROM THE YACHT?

EASY WITH HER. SHE'S IN TERRIBLE PAIN

GEE, SHE MUST BE IN BAD SHAPE
I'LL CARRY HER UP SHE'S QUITE DELICATE.

PATCH, DON'T DELAY TOO LONG, OR I'LL BREAK YOUR SKULL
QUIET.

OH, THE POOR THING
THIS WAY, PLEASE

WE'LL GET YOU NICE AND COMFY
DON'T WORRY, SIR. WE'LL START AT ONCE.
UH-DON'T RUSH THINGS-TOO MUCH

BELOW, THE "VESTA" CREW, FINGERING HIDDEN RIFLES, AWAIT PATCH'S SIGNAL!

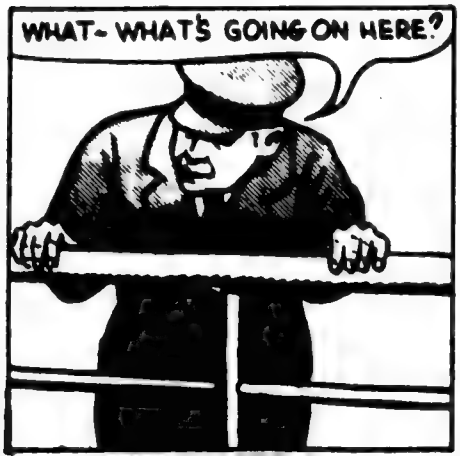
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING, DEARIE.

AWFULLY GOOD OF YOU TO HELP US, CAPTAIN.
NOT AT ALL HOPE IT WORKS OUT ALL RIGHT FOR THE GIRL.

WHERE'S YOUR YACHT HEADED FOR?
NOWHERE IN PARTICULAR JUST A PLEASURE CRUISE--

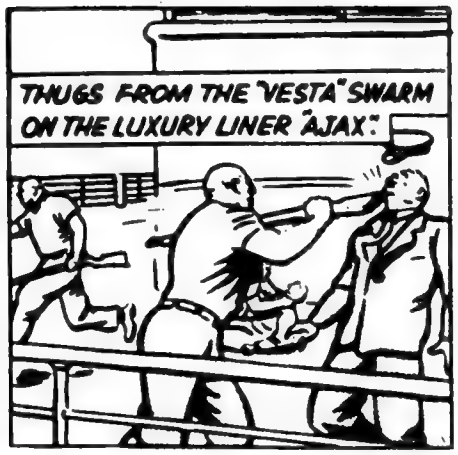
THE HANDKERCHIEF! PATCH'S SIGNAL!
LET'S GO!

GANGWAY, OSWALD!


WHAT-WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

IS THIS-PIRACY?
THAT'S A NASTY WORD, CAPTAIN.

BUT-I FEEL ALL RIGHT NOW--
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF, MY DEAR--


THUGS FROM THE "VESTA" SWARM ON THE LUXURY LINER "AJAX."

WHO ARE THEY-?
FROM THE YACHT! PIRATES!

THE HUGE LINER IS UNEQUIPPED TO HANDLE THE ARMED INVADERS.
WE'RE TAKING OVER, CHUM!
7-28

PIRACY-IN THIS DAY AND AGE! INCREDIBLE!
WE'RE OLD-FASHIONED, CAPTAIN.

THE THUGS FROM THE "VESTA" TAKE OVER.
TURN OFF THE STEAM, BOYS. YOU AIN'T GOING NOWHERES.

YOU USED THAT "SICK" GIRL AS A FRONT-TO GET ABOARD!
YOU'RE QUICK, CAPTAIN. YOU OUGHTA BE ON THE RADIO.

THE SITUATION'S WELL IN HAND, PATCH.
GOOD. I'D BETTER SEE HOW KERRY'S DOING.

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH ME.
MISS-- THIS IS MOST IRREGULAR-OUCH!
7-29

HOLD HER DOWN-OOF!
PLEASE-MISS-WE'RE TRYING TO HELP YOU!

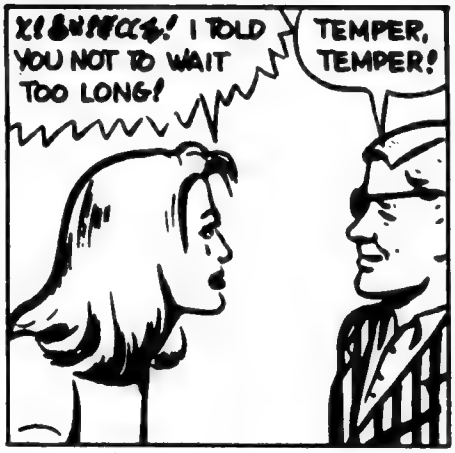
I DON'T NEED ANY HELP! THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH MY APPENDIX-OR ANYTHING ELSE!

YOU'D BETTER LET US EXAMINE YOU AND FIND OUT!

NURSE! GET A HYPO! SHE'S GETTING VIOLENT!
7-30

LET HER UP!

PHEW~ SHE DOESN'T NEED AN OPERATION. SHE NEEDS A STRAIT JACKET!


X!&%#¢¢&! I TOLD YOU NOT TO WAIT TOO LONG!
TEMPER, TEMPER!

ANOTHER MINUTE, AND I'D HAVE HAD AN APPENDECTOMY!
MIGHTA DONE YOU SOME GOOD.
7-31

SAILORS FROM THE YACHT HAVE THE HUGE LUXURY LINER "AJAX" UNDER CONTROL!

GET GOING, YOU!
THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!

PUT ALL MONEY AND JEWELRY ON THE TABLE. DON'T HIDE ANYTHING. YOU'LL BE SEARCHED BEFORE LEAVING.

THIS IS AN~~
OUTRAGE. WE KNOW. IT'S TOUGH ALL OVER. DON'T HOLD UP THE LINE.
8-1

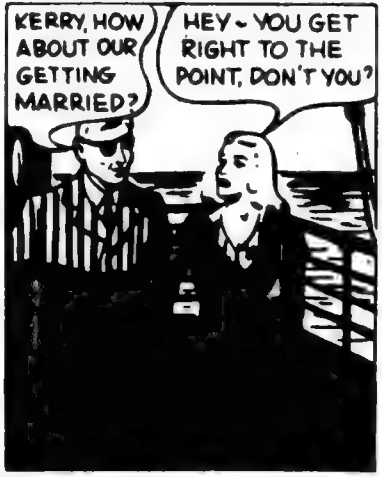
THAT'S ALL I HAVE.
JUST A MINUTE, YOU.

I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING SHINING THROUGH THE FOLIAGE. REAL DIAMONDS! FOR SHAME.

SOME PEOPLE HAVE NO SENSE OF HONOR. UMM~NICE. KERRY WANT.
THEY'RE YOURS. NEXT!

MEANWHILE, WATCHING FROM THE DECK OF THE YACHT~~
SO THAT'S THE STORY. KERRY AND HER PALS ARE PIRATES. LOOKS LIKE I WALKED INTO SOMETHING!
8-2

HOW ABOUT A CARD GAME?
KERRY AND I ARE GOING FOR A STROLL, CAP.


KERRY, HOW ABOUT OUR GETTING MARRIED?
HEY ~ YOU GET RIGHT TO THE POINT, DON'T YOU?

AFTER THAT "AJAX" HAUL, WE CAN ENJOY LIFE AND GIVE UP THIS RAT RACE.
BUT I LIKE THIS "RAT RACE"

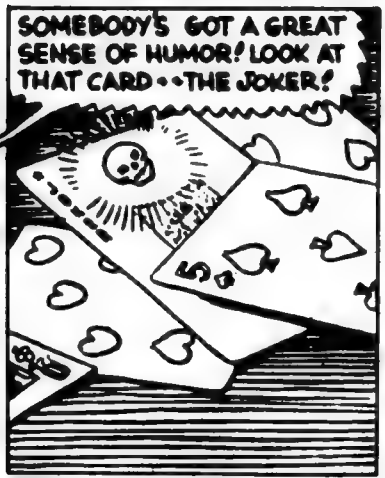
NO ROMANCE, PATCH. I'M STRICTLY BUSINESS! LET'S GO BACK TO THE CARDS.

THAT "AJAX" JOB WAS THE SLICKEST EVER!
BIGGEST HAUL WE EVER HAD~ NOBODY GOT HURT.

IT WENT SO SMOOTHLY! NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT! THEY'LL NEVER CATCH US! WE MADE A CLEAN BREAK!

YES, SIR, IT WAS THE SMOOTHEST ~GULP~ ~UH~~

PATCH! WHAT HAPPENED?


SOMEBODY'S GOT A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR! LOOK AT THAT CARD ~ THE JOKER!

YOU MUST HAVE DONE IT.
YOU MUST HAVE DONE IT.

OH, SO YOU'RE IN CAHOOTS, HUH?
DON'T BLOW YOUR TOP, PATCH. CAN'T YOU TAKE A JOKE?

LAUGH YOUR HEADS OFF. ANY MORE JOKES LIKE THAT AND I'LL START BLASTING!

POOR PATCH. HE ALMOST HAD HEART FAILURE WHEN HE SAW THAT SKULL ON THE CARD.
GREAT STUNT, KERRY. HE TURNED WHITE.

DON'T GIVE ME THE CREDIT, YOU SLY OLD SEA DOG. IT WAS YOUR OWN IDEA
STOP BEING MODEST.

WISH I'D THOUGHT OF IT FIRST. SURE TOOK HIM DOWN A PEG!
CAP- I DIDN'T DO IT-
TOMORROW: WHO-DID?

YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU DIDN'T PUT THIS SKULL ON PATCH'S CARD?
NO, CAP. HONEST-

I WAS LAUGHING BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU DID IT.
I LAUGHED BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU DID IT.

IF YOU DIDN'T DO IT--AND I KNOW I DIDN'T-THEN-WHO DID?

YOU MEAN-YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS SKULL IS?
JUST A DEATH'S-HEAD-THE USUAL THING--

IT'S THE MARK OF THE PHANTOM! REMEMBER THAT ROMEO WE TOSSED OVERBOARD IN PORT? HE WORE A RING LIKE THAT.
HIM? HE'S DEAD!

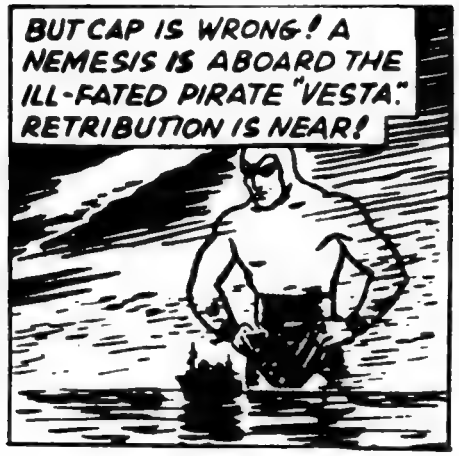
THE SAME MARK'S ON MIKE'S JAW!-HE SAYS SOMEBODY CLIMBED ABOARD AND SLUGGED HIM-300 MILES OUT AT SEA!

NOBODY-CAN COME BACK-
MAYBE THE PHANTOM CAN--
CONT'D.

PHANTOM-ON THIS SHIP? BUT HE'S JUST A-SUPERSTITION!
HE CAN'T BE ABOARD! I'LL TELL YOU WHY, KERRY!

FOR CENTURIES THE PHANTOM'S BEEN A JINX FOR ALL PIRATE SHIPS! BUT THERE'S NO JINX RIDING WITH US! WE MADE A SUCCESSFUL RAID--
8-18

-TOOK A FORTUNE FROM THE "AJAX," AND GOT AWAY SCOT-FREE! SO THAT PROVES IT!
YOU'RE AS SUPERSTITIOUS AS THE REST, CAP!

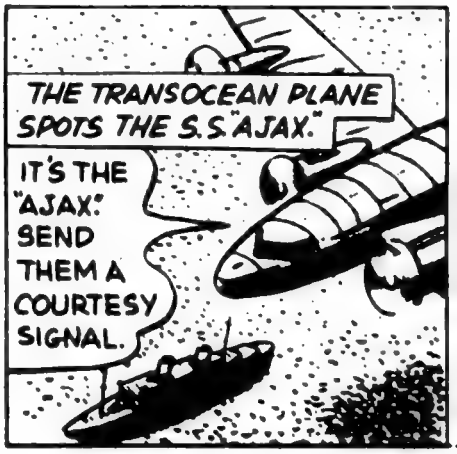

BUT CAP IS WRONG! A NEMESIS IS ABOARD THE ILL-FATED PIRATE "VESTA." RETRIBUTION IS NEAR!

THE HUGE LUXURY LINER "AJAX", SACKED BY THE PIRATES OF THE "VESTA", DRIFTS HELPLESSLY AT SEA.

NO USE, SIR. THEY SMASHED THE RADIO TRANSMITTER FOR KEEPS
THE STEERING EQUIPMENT CAN'T BE REPAIRED, EITHER, CAPTAIN.

WE'RE DRIFTING TOWARDS THE BARRIER REEF. WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, WE'LL SMASH!
WE HAVE TO ABANDON SHIP-
8-19

-BUT I HATE TO RISK THE PASSENGERS IN SMALL BOATS IN THAT HEAVY SEA-
CAPTAIN, A PLANE!


THE TRANSOCEAN PLANE SPOTS THE S.S. "AJAX."
IT'S THE "AJAX." SEND THEM A COURTESY SIGNAL.

THEY DIPPED THEIR WINGS- THEY SEE US!
IF WE COULD ONLY RADIO THEM -TELL THEM WE'RE HELPLESS! BUT OUR TRANSMITTER'S SMASHED--!
8-20

I'M TRYING TO REACH THEM- NO REPLY-
STRANGE-THERE'S NO WAKE BEHIND HER. JUST DRIFTING IN MID-OCEAN- LOOK, THEY'RE SENDING FLASH SIGNALS!

IF ONLY THEY SEE THIS-AND KNOW THE CODE!
THEIR WINGS DIPPED AGAIN! THEY DO!

THE SENSATIONAL NEWS FLASHES AROUND THE WORLD.
PIRACY AT SEA
"AJAX" ADRIFT
LUXURY LINER SACKED BY UNKNOWN PIRATES SPOTTED BY PLANE
1200 PASSENGERS ROBBED
YACHT BRIGANDS ESCAPE

~AND NEWS SERVICES REPORT THAT SHIPS AND PLANES ARE SPEEDING TO THE STRANDED OCEAN GIANT AFTER THE FIRST MAJOR ACT OF PIRACY IN MODERN TIMES~~
8-21

ABOARD THE PIRATE YACHT "VESTA."
~IN MODERN TIMES~
SPOTTED BY A PLANE. WHAT DUMB LUCK!

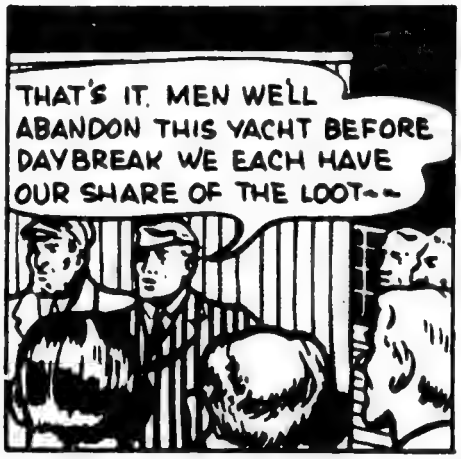
THE JIG'S UP, PATCH. WHAT'LL WE DO?
PLANES AND SHIPS WILL SEARCH THE OCEAN FOR US~~ WE CAN'T LAND IN ANY PORT~

PLANES AND SHIPS OF EVERY NAVY WILL LOOK FOR US~WE'RE SAFE TONIGHT~ WHILE IT'S DARK. BUT TOMORROW~~

WE EACH HAVE OUR SHARE OF THE LOOT.
WE'LL HEAD FOR LAND TONIGHT. AT DAWN, WE'LL TAKE OFF IN BOATS, GET ASHORE, AND MEET LATER.
8-22

WHAT ABOUT THIS YACHT?
SINK IT, NATURALLY! WE'LL GET ANOTHER ONE~JUST AS WE GOT THIS ONE~BY STEALING IT!

EVERYTHING WAS GOING SO WELL~ WHAT ROTTEN LUCK! WE'RE JINXED~~
HMM~~


THAT'S IT. MEN WE'LL ABANDON THIS YACHT BEFORE DAYBREAK WE EACH HAVE OUR SHARE OF THE LOOT~~

WE'LL ROW TO LAND SCATTER, AND MEET IN TWO MONTHS AT THE USUAL SPOT. BY THEN WE'LL HAVE A NEW SHIP

MIGHT AS WELL GET SOME SLEEP.
NICE TUB. TOO BAD WE HAFTA SINK HER.

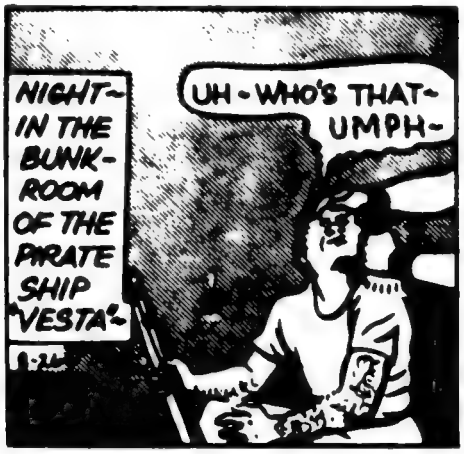
I'VE GOT TO KEEP THIS GANG FROM SINKING THIS YACHT AND SCATTERING WITH THEIR LOOT~ BUT HOW?
8-23

I'M GLAD WE'RE SINKIN' THIS TUB AND GETTIN' TO LAND. I CAN'T WAIT TO START SPENDIN' THIS SWAG!
ME TOO!

NOBODY'S GONNA STEAL MY SHARE TONIGHT! I'M GONNA STAY UP ALL NIGHT AND SIT ON IT!

AW~ WE'RE 500 MILES FROM SHORE! WHO'D STEAL IT?
TURN OFF THE LIGHTS. LET'S GET SOME SHUT-EYE!
8-25

LATER, AS SNORES ROCK THE BUNKROOM OF THE "VESTA"!


NIGHT~ IN THE BUNK-ROOM OF THE PIRATE SHIP "VESTA"~
UH ~ WHO'S THAT~ UMPH~

I DON'T LIKE THIS ~ EVEN THO' THESE MEN ARE PIRATES AND THIS IS STOLEN PROPERTY~

BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN KEEP THIS GANG FROM SINKING THE YACHT AND SCATTERING ~~

WILL THE PHANTOM'S PLAN WORK?
DON'T WAKE UP, YOU, OR I'LL HAVE TO PUT YOU BACK TO SLEEP~~

WAKE UP THE MEN. WE'VE GOT AN HOUR TO BE OFF THIS YACHT AND SINK IT BEFORE DAWN.

MEANWHILE, IN THE BUNK-ROOM~~
MY SHARE~ MY JEWELS~ ~GONE!

HEY~ I HAD MY SHARE IN THIS POCKET~ IT'S GONE!
MINE TOO!

HE WAS AFRAID SOMEBODY'D LIFT HIS SHARE ~ HE STAYED UP ALL NIGHT~
SOMEBODY SLUGGED HIM~~
8-27

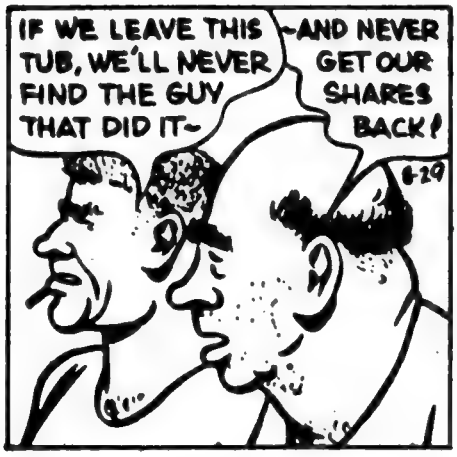
IN THE "VESTA" BUNK-ROOM, WHERE THE LOOT-SHARES OF A DOZEN MEN HAVE VANISHED IN THE NIGHT!
SOMEONE HERE'S A THIEF!

YOU WAS AWAKE. WHO SLUGGED YOU?
BET HE SWIPED IT ALL~THEN SLUGGED HIM-SELF!

STEP LIVELY, MEN. WE'RE ABANDONING SHIP AT ONCE, ACCORDING TO PLAN!
8-28

MEN! IT'LL BE DAWN IN AN HOUR! PLANES AND SHIPS'LL BE SEARCH-ING FOR US!
WILL YOU MAKE GOOD WHAT WAS SWIPED FROM US!
NO! IF YOU CAN'T TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN SHARES, IT'S YOUR TOUGH LUCK!

WE'RE NOT LEAVIN' THIS TUB TILL WE GET OUR STOLEN SHARES BACK!
YEAH! YEAH!


IF WE LEAVE THIS TUB, WE'LL NEVER FIND THE GUY THAT DID IT~
~AND NEVER GET OUR SHARES BACK!
8-29

WE'VE GOT TO LEAVE AT ONCE! GET THAT THRU YOUR THICK SKULLS!
YEAH? YOU LEAVE! WE'RE STAYIN' TILL WE FIND WHAT'S OURS!

THEY WON'T LEAVE. WE MUST SEARCH EACH MAN, TO SEE IF ANYONE HAS MORE THAN HIS ORIGINAL SHARE OF THE LOOT.

BUT WE HAVEN'T TIME! IT'S ALMOST LIGHT
WE HAVE TO DO IT, PATCH. OTHERWISE, WE'LL HAVE A MUTINY!

WHAT ROTTEN LUCK! WE MAY BE SPOTTED ANY MINUTE~ WE'RE JINXED!
THAT'S THE SECOND TIME I'VE HEARD THAT WORD. JINXED~BY THE~?

MY PLAN SEEMS TO BE WORKING. I'VE DELAYED THEM. NOW~FOR THE BIG CHANCE!
8-30

DAWN, ON THE DECK OF THE PIRATE "VESTA"-ALL HANDS ARE SEARCHED FOR THE MISSING SHARES OF LOOT!

COME ON-YOU TOO SPARKS! EVERYBODY'S BEING SEARCHED! HURRY UP!

NOW FOR THE BIG CHANCE-- IT'S ONE I HAVE TO TAKE-- MEANS EXPOSING MYSELF- BUT I MUST WORK FAST--

CALLING ALL SHIPS AND PLANES AT SEA - THIS IS THE "VESTA", PIRATE SHIP. CALLING ALL SHIPS--

CALLING ALL SHIPS AND PLANES AT SEA-"VESTA" CALLING-HELLO- HELLO--

ABOARD A TRANSOCEAN PLANE-
CALLING FROM "VESTA", PIRATE YACHT THAT SACKED THE S.S."AJAX".
DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

IN THE RADIO ROOM OF A DESTROYER--
-CREW IS ABANDONING "VESTA". HURRY-HURRY-OUR LOCATION IS--

AND ABOARD THE PIRATE "VESTA"
LISTEN TO OUR TRANSMITTER! SOMEONE'S IN THE RADIO ROOM!
BUT EVERY HAND IS ON DECK- HERE!

ALL HANDS ARE ON DECK! ONLY ONE PERSON CAN BE IN THE RADIO ROOM- OUR JINX--
THE PHANTOM!

THE RADIO ROOM IS QUICKLY SURROUNDED--

WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!
COME AND GET ME!

PATCH SIGNALS-A BARRAGE OF HOT LEAD POURS INTO THE CABIN FROM ALL SIDES!

THE PHANTOM IS TRAPPED IN THE "VESTA" RADIO ROOM AS BULLETS POUR IN FROM ALL SIDES.

NO POINT IN JUST TAKING IT. MIGHT AS WELL HAND SOME OUT, TOO!

LOOK OUT~ HE'S SPRAYING 'EM!

HE'S SHOOTING~IN EVERY DIRECTION~ AT ONCE! HOW MANY~PHANTOMS ARE IN THERE?
9-4

THE TRANS-MISSION STOPPED SUDDENLY, SIR.
"VESTA PIRATES ABANDONING SHIP~HURRY--" ~WHO COULD HAVE SENT IT?

ABOARD A NAVAL DESTROYER--
MIGHT BE A HOAX, SIR.
MIGHT BE. BUT WE MUST INVESTIGATE. THE "AJAX" AFFAIR IS TOO BIG TO IGNORE.

MEANWHILE, ABOARD THE PIRATE "VESTA" THE BATTLE RAGES ON~THE ENTIRE PIRATE CREW AGAINST--
9-5

I'LL HOLD THIS GANG AS LONG AS I CAN! IF ONLY MY MESSAGE IS BELIEVED~AND NOT TAKEN AS A JOKE!

THAT~WAS MY LAST BULLET! IT'S ALL OVER NOW--

ABOARD THE PIRATE YACHT "VESTA" WHERE THE PHANTOM IS TRAPPED--
BROAD DAYLIGHT! WE'LL BE SPOTTED BY A PLANE ANY MINUTE! CAP~WE'VE GOT TO LEAVE THIS SHIP!
HOW? NOBODY CAN REACH THE BOATS WHILE HE'S SHOOTING LIKE THAT!

BESIDES, WE CAN'T LEAVE HIM BEHIND TO REPORT US! WE DON'T GO~UNTIL HE'S DEAD!

IN THE PIRATE YACHT'S RADIO ROOM~
NO MORE AMMUNITION! IT WON'T TAKE THEM LONG TO KNOW IT--

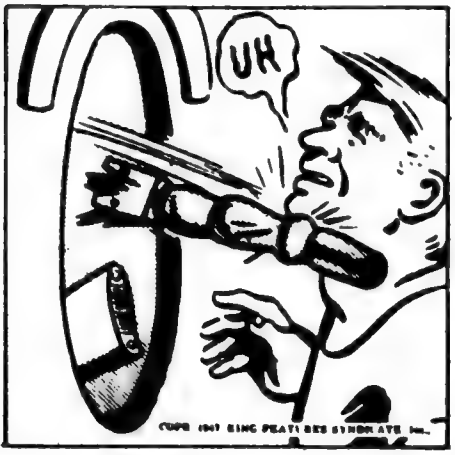
HE'S STOPPED FIRING--
HE'S EITHER HIT~ PLAYING POSSUM~ OR OUT OF BULLETS~

A DARING PIRATE DASHES ACROSS DECK AS THE OTHERS WATCH ~THERE'S NO SHOT FROM THE RADIO ROOM~

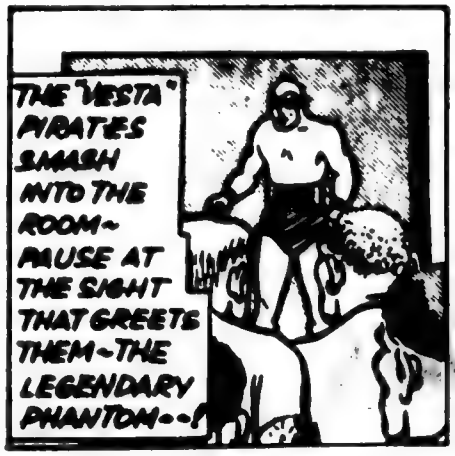
HE'S OUT OF LEAD!
WE'VE GOT HIM!
TEAR HIM APART!

THE "VESTA" PIRATES SWARM AGAINST THE RADIO ROOM DOOR--
PUSH!

INSIDE, AS THE PHANTOM HOLDS AGAINST THE CRUSHING ODDS--


UH

THERE IT GOES!
IN WE GO! GET HIM!

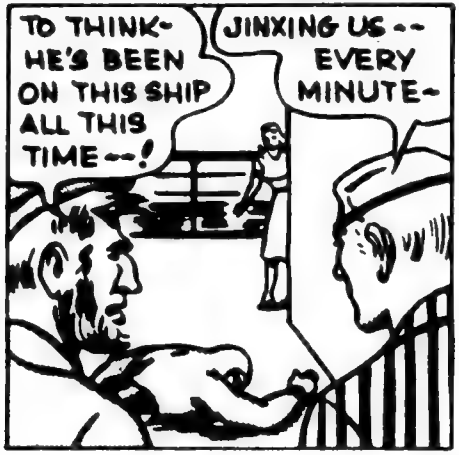

THE "VESTA" PIRATES SMASH INTO THE ROOM~ PAUSE AT THE SIGHT THAT GREETS THEM~THE LEGENDARY PHANTOM--!

THEN WADE IN~TO LEARN WHAT THEY'VE ALWAYS HEARD IS TRUE!
UH--
UMPH~

HE FIGHTS SILENTLY, TIRELESSLY, HIS IRON FIST DARTING FROM JAW TO JAW~

BUT THE ODDS FINALLY TELL. HE GOES DOWN UNDER THEIR SHEER WEIGHT--

WOW~ WHAT A FIGHT HE PUT UP!
WHATEVER HE IS~~ ONE THING'S SURE~ HE'S A MAN!
9-11


TO THINK~ HE'S BEEN ON THIS SHIP ALL THIS TIME~~!
JINXING US~~ EVERY MINUTE~

HERE'S OUR MISSING SHARES O'LOOT~~
HE HAD'EM HID UP HERE~~

OKAY~ LET'S TAKE OFF! HOW ABOUT HIM?
HE GOES DOWN WITH THE SHIP!

COME TO, EH? CLEVER OF YOU, TAKING THOSE SHARES SO THE MEN WOULDN'T LEAVE THE SHIP~HOLDING US HERE~~
9-12

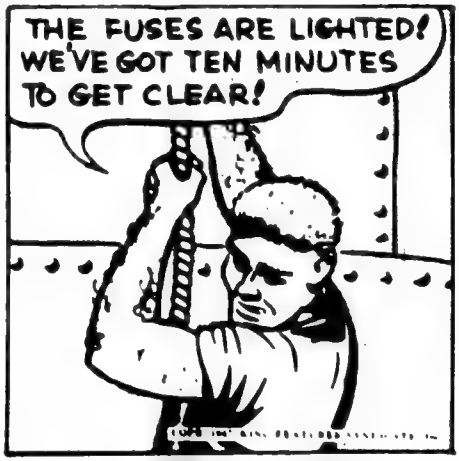
BUT YOUR PLAN DIDN'T WORK. WE HAVEN'T BEEN SPOTTED YET~ WE'RE LEAVING NOW~~
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

PLANTING DYNAMITE~ALL OVER THE SHIP! WE'RE SINKING THIS TUB RIGHT TO THE BOTTOM.

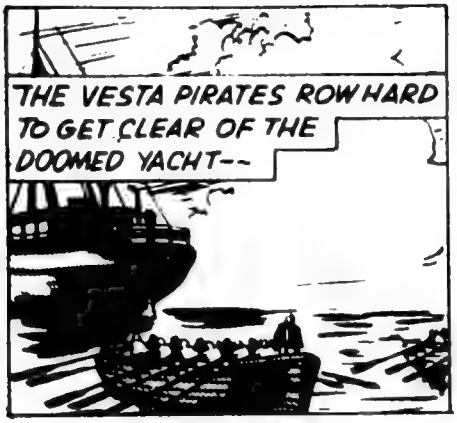
IN TEN MINUTES, THERE WON'T BE A TRACE OF THE "VESTA"~OR ANYTHING ON IT!

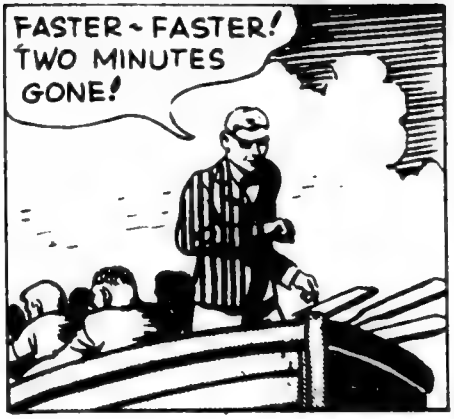
THE DYNAMITE'S SET, FROM THE KEEL TO THE BRIDGE, PATCH.
FIRE THE FUSES WHEN I SIGNAL YOU.

OKAY!


THE FUSES ARE LIGHTED! WE'VE GOT TEN MINUTES TO GET CLEAR!

9-13


THE VESTA PIRATES ROW HARD TO GET CLEAR OF THE DOOMED YACHT--


FASTER ~ FASTER! TWO MINUTES GONE!

THE PHANTOM IS LEFT ABOARD THE VESTA ~~
I'VE GOT TO GET LOOSE ~ THIS IS NO WAY TO GO ~ TO EXPLODE LIKE A FIRECRACKER!

NO ~~USE~! CAN'T BREAK THESE ROPES ~ THAT FUSE IS BURNING SHORTER ~ AND SHORTER!

FIVE MINUTES TO GO BEFORE SHE BLOWS ~ GET MORE DISTANCE! WHERE'S KERRY?
IN ANOTHER BOAT, I GUESS.

THE MEN ROW HARD TO CLEAR THE DOOMED YACHT ~~
WE'RE MAKING IT! WE'RE OKAY!

FOUR MORE MINUTES ~ HUH ~~?
LOOK ~ TO THE WEST ~!

THE DESTROYER AND NAVAL PLANES SPEED TOWARD THE DESPERATE VESTA CREW AND THEIR DOOMED SHIP ~!

THAT'S THE VESTA PIRATE, SIR.
THEY'VE ABANDONED THE CRAFT ~~

THEY SPOTTED US! WHAT CAN WE DO, PATCH?
DO ~ DO? WHAT IS THERE TO DO? NOTHING!

ON THE DOOMED VESTA, THE PHANTOM SEES THE APPROACHING RESCUE SHIP AND PLANES ~~

THEY'RE IN TIME TO NAB THE PIRATE GANG ~ BUT NOT IN TIME TO STOP THIS DYNAMITE ~~

KERRY!
I WAITED ~UNTIL THEY WERE FAR ENOUGH AWAY NOT TO SEE ME AND SHOOT AT ME~~
9-18

WE'VE GOT HALF A MINUTE TO GET OFF~ THERE'S DYNAMITE ALL OVER THE SHIP!
WHY DID YOU WAIT TO HELP ME?

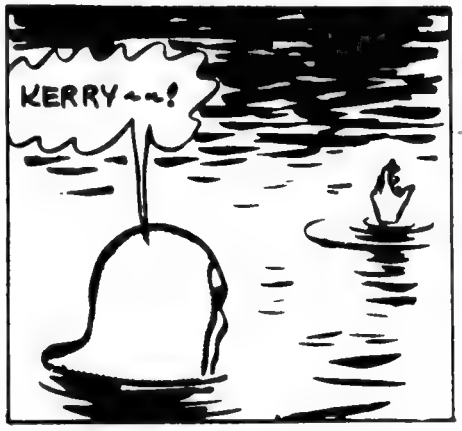
I GOT YOU INTO THIS, ROMEO~ THE LEAST I COULD DO WAS GET YOU OUT~~

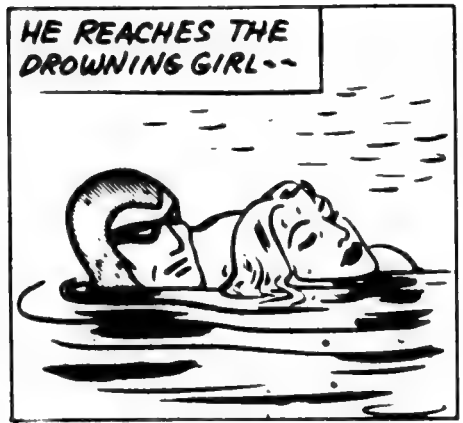
GOOD NIGHT~~
DYNAMITE! MEANT TO SINK HER~~ WITHOUT A TRACE~

THE EXPLOSION TOSSES THE SMALL BOATS OF THE PIRATE CREW LIKE CORKS~~

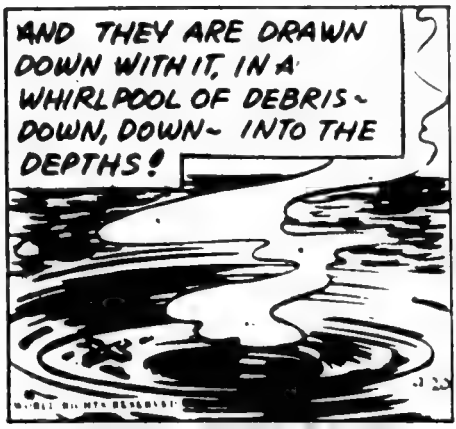
STUNNED BY THE BLASTS, THE PHANTOM SWIMS FEEBLY THRU THE WRECKAGE-LITTERED WATER~
WHERE'S KERRY?

AND BRAVE, BAD KERRY~~
9-19


KERRY~~!


HE REACHES THE DROWNING GIRL~~

THE BADLY DAMAGED YACHT TURNS END UP~~ AND SINKS RAPIDLY~~


AND THEY ARE DRAWN DOWN WITH IT, IN A WHIRLPOOL OF DEBRIS~ DOWN, DOWN~ INTO THE DEPTHS!

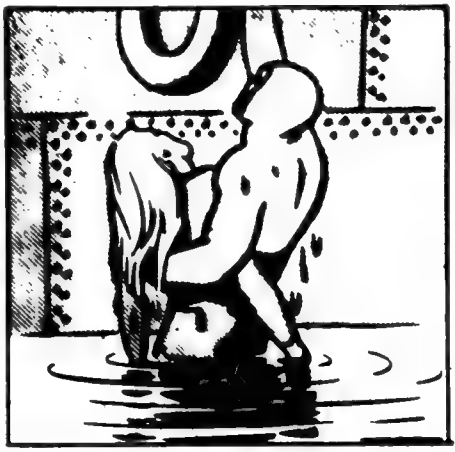
PULL ALONGSIDE THAT DEBRIS. THERE MAY BE SOME SURVIVORS.

BENEATH THE DEBRIS OF THE EXPLODED "VESTA", THE PHANTOM CLINGS GRIMLY TO THE INERT KERRY~~

THOUGHTS RACE THRU HIS BRAIN AS HIS STRENGTH EBBS~
DIANA~PROBABLY THINKS KERRY'S IN MY ARMS AT THIS MOMENT~~

SO SHE IS~BUT NOT AS DIANA IMAGINES~UH~~ NOT MUCH BREATH LEFT~
4-22

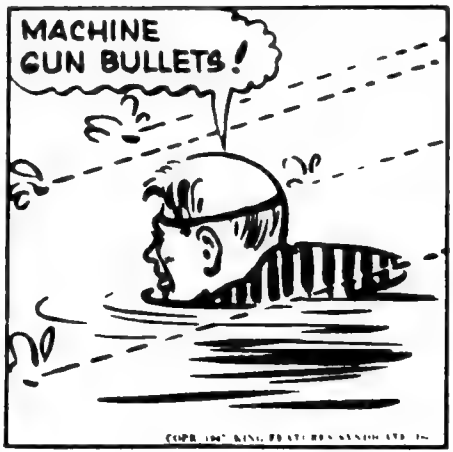
A LIFE PRESERVER~!



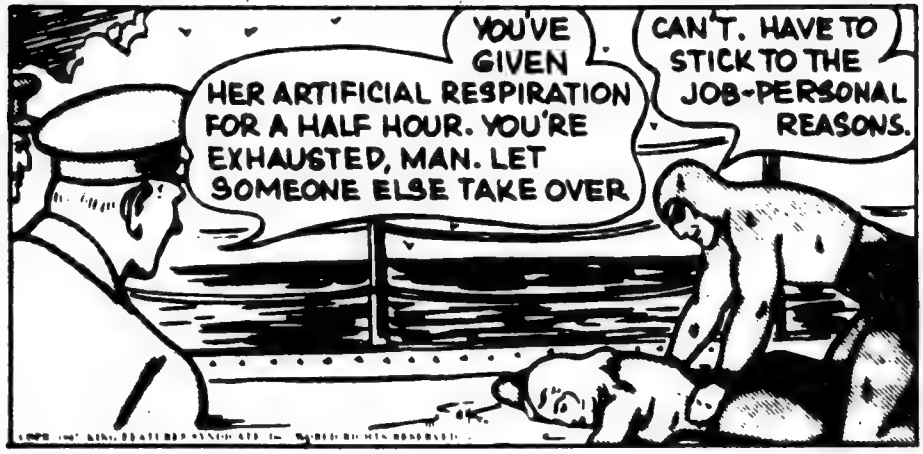
I'LL BE~~! I'VE FISHED IN MANY WATERS, BUT I'VE NEVER PULLED ANYTHING OUT OF THE OCEAN LIKE THIS BEFORE!
THANKS~THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE~! SEE TO THE GIRL!
4-23

THE VESTA PIRATES ARE HELD UNDER THE GUNS OF THE DESTROYER~~

IF THEY THINK I'LL SIT HERE AND WAIT FOR THEM TO GET ME~~!


MACHINE GUN BULLETS!

MAYBE~I'D BETTER WAIT~~
4-24


YOU'VE GIVEN HER ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION FOR A HALF HOUR. YOU'RE EXHAUSTED, MAN. LET SOMEONE ELSE TAKE OVER.
CAN'T. HAVE TO STICK TO THE JOB-PERSONAL REASONS.

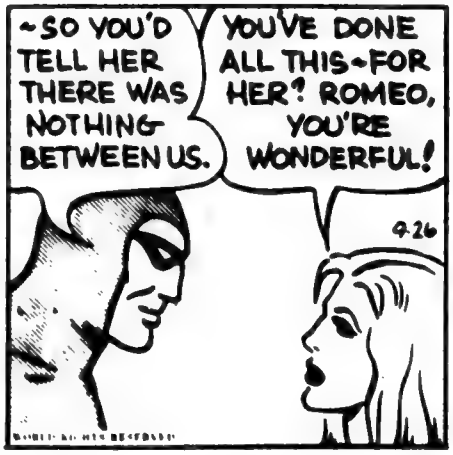
I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT. SHE'S LOVELY.
NO-IT'S BECAUSE OF ANOTHER GIRL-MY GIRL!

HE'S GOT TO SAVE HER BECAUSE HE'S IN LOVE WITH SOMEBODY ELSE. DO YOU GET THAT, SIR?
NO, BUT IT SOUNDS INTERESTING.
9-25

WHERE-ARE WE?
ABOARD A NAVAL DESTROYER, KERRY.

OH-OH. THE JIG'S UP! YOU SAVED MY LIFE-
YOU SAVED MINE-SO WE'RE EVEN.

WHY'D YOU DO IT?
FIRST, BECAUSE I'D TRY TO SAVE ANYBODY. SECOND TO TAKE YOU BACK TO DIANA-


-SO YOU'D TELL HER THERE WAS NOTHING BETWEEN US.
YOU'VE DONE ALL THIS-FOR HER? ROMEO, YOU'RE WONDERFUL!
9-26

THE VESTA PIRATES ARE BROUGHT ABOARD THE DESTROYER--

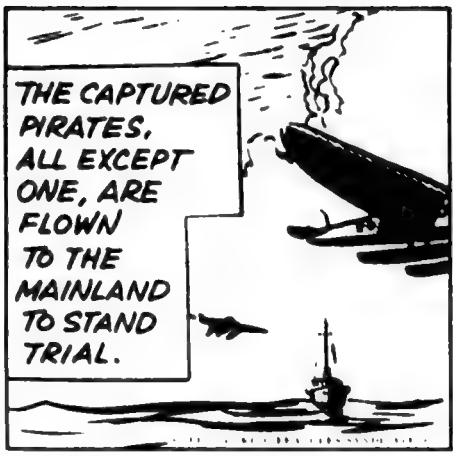
YOU JINX!
HE DOESN'T LIKE YOU.
THE FEELING'S MUTUAL!

FIFTY OF US WITH RIFLES COULDN'T KILL YOU! SO I BLEW UP THE YACHT TO FINISH YOU! YOU'RE STILL ALIVE AND KICKING!
9-27

ARE YOU REALLY THE GHOST WHO WALKS? THE MAN WHO CANNOT DIE?
FIGURE IT OUT IN PRISON, PATCH. IF YOU SOLVE IT, LET ME KNOW.

THIS IS THE PIRATE LOOT, COMMANDER. MOST OF IT CAME FROM THE "AJAX"
PIRACY IN THIS DAY AND AGE! INCREDIBLE!

YOUR WHOLE CREW WILL BE FLOWN TO THE MAINLAND TO FACE TRIAL.
WHY NOT HANG US HERE AND GET IT OVER?!


THE CAPTURED PIRATES, ALL EXCEPT ONE, ARE FLOWN TO THE MAINLAND TO STAND TRIAL.

I UNDERSTAND YOU SENT THE MESSAGE AND DELAYED THE PIRATES' ESCAPE. YOU'VE A HUGE REWARD COMING.
I WANT NO REWARD. I ASK ONLY ONE THING. I'D LIKE TO BORROW THIS PRISONER FOR ONE DAY.
9-30

THAT'S AN UNUSUAL REQUEST. WHY?
IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT I GOT INTO THIS BECAUSE OF A MISUNDERSTANDING WITH MY GIRL.

AND KERRY'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CLEAR ME WITH MY GIRL.
SHE MUST BE QUITE A GIRL.

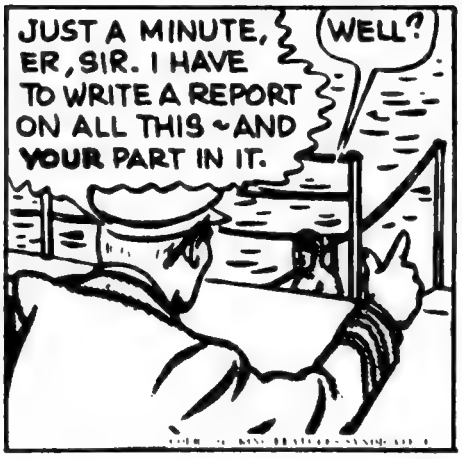
WE FEEL THAT WE OWE YOU A GREAT DEAL. YOU SIMPLIFIED OUR TASK IN RIDDING THE SEA OF THE "VESTA" PIRATES.

WE'VE DECIDED TO LET YOU TAKE THIS PRISONER AND AN ARMED GUARD - "TO CLEAR UP THINGS" WITH YOUR GIRL, AS YOU EXPLAINED.

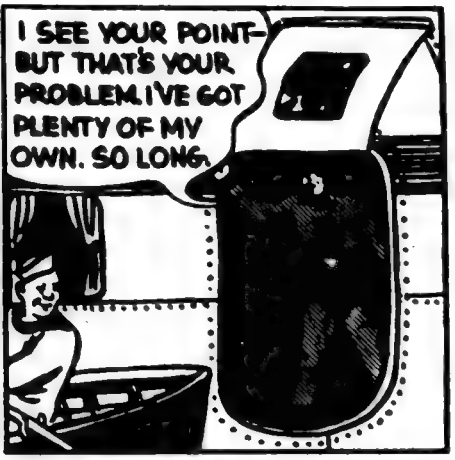
IT'S NOT ONLY THAT WE OWE YOU A LOT. THE NAVY HAS A HIGH REGARD FOR ROMANCE AND BELIEVES IT SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.
10-1

YOU'LL HAVE TO STAND TRIAL WITH THE OTHERS. KERRY. YOU MAY GET SOME CONSIDERATION FOR HELPING ME.
I'M AS GUILTY AS THE REST. IN THIS GAME, YOU ONLY LOSE ONCE. I'VE LOST. I WANT NO CONSIDERATION.

GUESS THIS IS MY LAST LOOK AT THE SEA~


JUST A MINUTE, ER, SIR. I HAVE TO WRITE A REPORT ON ALL THIS ~AND YOUR PART IN IT.
WELL?

I MEAN, I CAN'T REPORT THAT A PHANTOM RADIOED US AND KEPT THE PIRATES FROM ESCAPING! H.Q. WILL THINK I'M TIGHT.
10-2

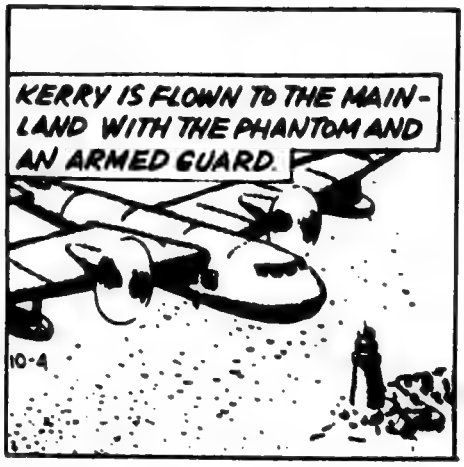

I SEE YOUR POINT- BUT THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM. I'VE GOT PLENTY OF MY OWN. SO LONG.

IT'S THE ODDEST THING I EVER HEARD OF, SIR. ONE MAN ~ THIS ~ ER ~ PHANTOM ~ PRACTICALLY SINGLE-HANDED~

~BROKE UP THE BIGGEST PIRATE GANG IN MODERN HISTORY! AND WHY DID HE DO IT? TO GET HOLD OF ONE OF THE LEADERS, A WOMAN~~
10-3

~SO SHE COULD TELL HIS GIRL THAT HE WASN'T TWO-TIMING HER! AMAZING!
WHY AMAZING? YOU CALL YOURSELF A NAVY MAN?

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT OLD NAVY SLOGAN? LOVE MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND!
NO SIR.


KERRY IS FLOWN TO THE MAINLAND WITH THE PHANTOM AND AN ARMED GUARD.
10-4

SO YOU DESTROYED OUR WHOLE ORGANIZATION~~ RISKED YOUR LIFE ~ JUST TO PROVE TO DIANA THAT YOU AREN'T IN LOVE WITH ME.

THAT WAS PART OF IT. ALSO, I DON'T LIKE PIRACY. CAN YOU THINK OF A BETTER REASON?
NO~~

I WISH ~ I WISH I WERE DIANA ~ AND YOU WERE COMING BACK TO ME~~

MILITARY TRUCKS ROAR UP THE QUIET COUNTRY ROAD TO THE PALMER RESIDENCE--

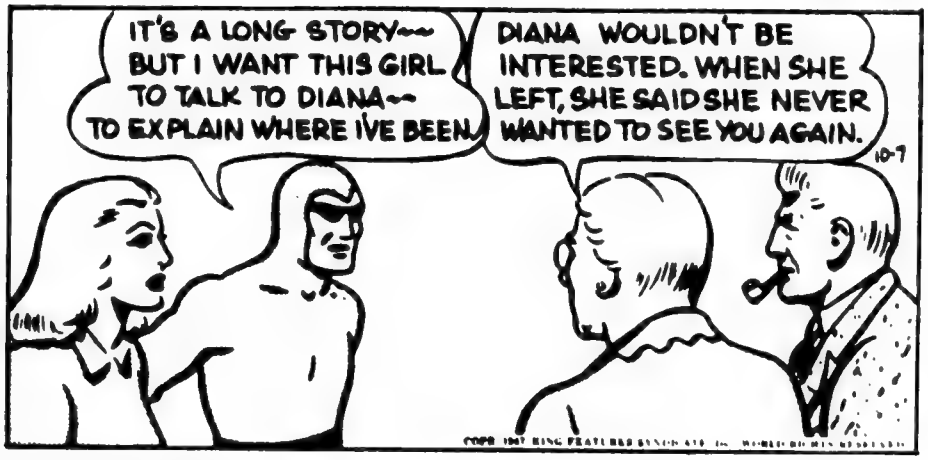
ARMED GUARDS LINE THE WALK--

-DAVE- WHAT IN THE WORLD?
MARINES! ALMOST A REGIMENT! HEY- WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO DEVIL--? HE'S DELIRIOUS-

DEVIL, OL' FELLA, DID YOU THINK I WASN'T COMING BACK FOR YOU?
WOOF- WOOF- LAP- LAP-

I'VE COME TO SEE DIANA, MRS. PALMER.
SHE'S NOT HERE.

WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE? DID YOU HAVE TO BRING THE ENTIRE MARINE CORPS?
MAYBE HE WAS AFRAID TO COME BACK ALONE.


IT'S A LONG STORY-- BUT I WANT THIS GIRL TO TALK TO DIANA-- TO EXPLAIN WHERE I'VE BEEN.
DIANA WOULDN'T BE INTERESTED. WHEN SHE LEFT, SHE SAID SHE NEVER WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
10-7

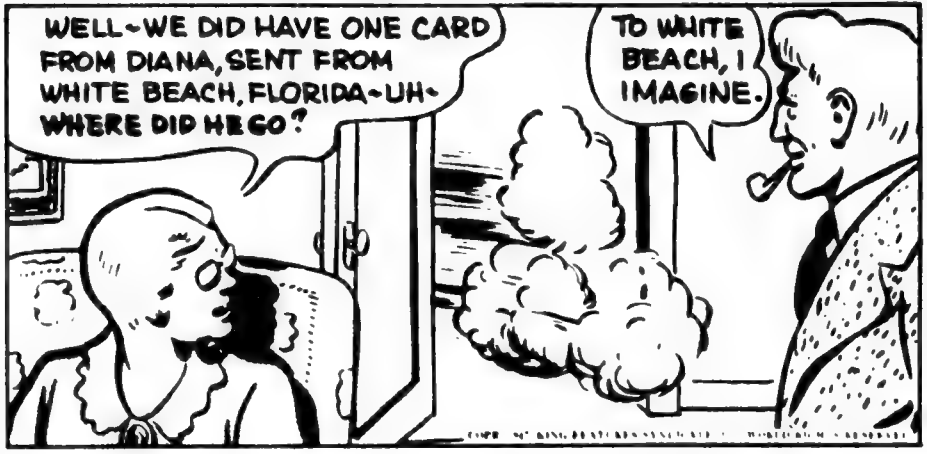
BUT, MRS. PALMER, I MUST SEE DIANA!
SHE LEFT WITHOUT A TRACE. WE DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS!

I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE PRISONER BACK NOW.
I SUPPOSE SO.

GOOD-BYE- KEEP YOUR CHIN UP, KERRY.
SORRY I COULDN'T HELP YOU OUT. GOOD LUCK. HOPE YOU FIND HER.

AFTER ALL THAT- DIANA WASN'T HERE TO HEAR THE TRUTH. WELL- THAT'S THAT-
10-8

I'VE COME TO SAY~ GOOD-BYE~
WAIT! LILY, DON'T YOU THINK YOU MIGHT MENTION THAT POST CARD?


WELL~WE DID HAVE ONE CARD FROM DIANA, SENT FROM WHITE BEACH, FLORIDA~UH~ WHERE DID HE GO?
TO WHITE BEACH, I IMAGINE.

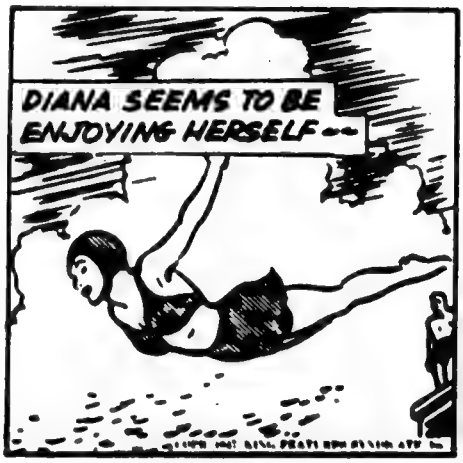
IT'S LIKELY HE REALLY LOVES HER. HE BLASTED A WHOLE PIRATE CREW OUT OF THE OCEAN TO PROVE IT!
HMM~

MEANWHILE, HOW'S DIANA DOING IN FLORIDA?
LOOK AT THAT MOB OF MEN OVER THERE.
THE PALMER GIRL, NATURALLY.

YOU'D THINK ONE MAN'D BE ENOUGH FOR HER.
SHE NEVER HAS LESS THAN A DOZEN!

WHY DON'T YOU DANCE, DEAR?
NO ONE'S ASKED ME! DIANA PALMER'S HERE TONIGHT!

DIANA SEEMS TO BE DOING ALL RIGHT.
I COULD SCRATCH HER EYES OUT! BUT SHE'S SUCH A SWELL GAL~~
YES, SHE IS, DARN IT!


DIANA SEEMS TO BE ENJOYING HERSELF~~

SORRY, NO DATES. I NEED MY SLEEP.
AW, DIANA, GIVE US COMMON PEOPLE A BREAK.

MY TURN
YOU'RE BOTH ON MY FEET!

APPEARANCES ARE OFT DECEIVING.
I SHOULD BE THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD. BUT AM I?

YOUNG MATT IS SIMPLY THROWING HIMSELF AT THAT PALMER GIRL.
IMAGINE! HIM!

DIANA, YOU MUST LIKE ONE OF US THE BEST--
PLAY THE FIELD-THAT'S MY MOTTO. SAFETY IN NUMBERS!

HEY, MATT-TAKE IT EASY!
BREAK IT UP! SHE'S HERE TO GET SUNSHINE!

HAD TO SHANGHAI YOU, DARLING. ONLY WAY I COULD GET A MINUTE ALONE WITH YOU.
10-13

IT'S NOT EASY, BEING THE ONLY SON OF THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD.
POOR MATT. MY HEART BLEEDS FOR YOU.

I KNOW THAT SOUNDED SILLY, BUT EVERYONE I MEET IS EITHER AFTER MY MONEY-OR THEY DON'T TAKE ME SERIOUSLY.
TSK-TSK-

I NEVER CARED ABOUT THE LATTER-UNTIL I MET YOU--
LET'S KEEP IT LIGHT, MATT.

PLEASE BE SERIOUS, DIANA. I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU. YOU'RE ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT.
10-14

MATT DOESN'T EVEN LOOK AT ANY OTHER GIRL ANY MORE.
HE'S GOT IT BAD!

DIANA, I LOVE YOU-I ADORE YOU.
LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE. THE WEATHER. DO YOU LIKE WEATHER?

HOW ABOUT HIGHER EDUCATION? DO YOU THINK IT'S GETTING TOO HIGH?
PLEASE TAKE ME SERIOUSLY FOR A MOMENT!

IS THERE SOMEONE ELSE, DIANA?
I THOUGHT THERE WAS. NO, MATT, I GUESS NOT--
10-15

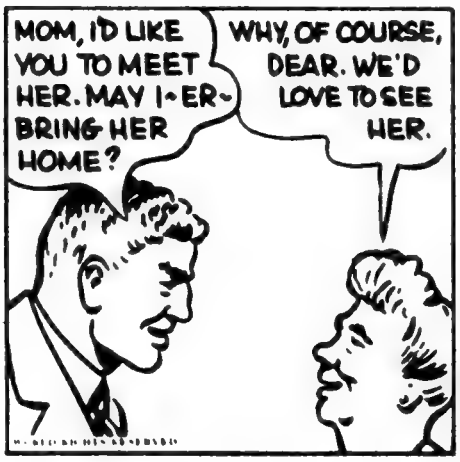
THE SAME GIRL AGAIN TONIGHT, MISTER MATT?
WHO ELSE?

REEVES, SHE'S WONDERFUL! SHE'S A DREAM! SHE'S OUT OF THIS WORLD.
SOUNDS AS IF YOU LIKE HER, SIR.

WHAT DOES THIS SOUND LIKE? I'M GOING TO MARRY HER!
WOW, MISTER MATT! WHAT'LL YOUR PARENTS SAY?

I'M GOING TO FIND OUT. BUT THE MAIN THING IS, WHAT'LL SHE SAY?

GOING OUT, DEAR? WHO'S THE LUCKY GIRL TONIGHT?
THE SAME AS USUAL. DIANA PALMER.


MOM, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET HER. MAY I-ER-BRING HER HOME?
WHY, OF COURSE, DEAR. WE'D LOVE TO SEE HER.

OH, BOY!
HE'S NEVER ASKED US TO MEET ANY OF HIS DATES BEFORE.

THIS SOUNDS LIKE MORE THAN A DATE.
THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF. I SUPPOSE--IT HAS TO HAPPEN SOMETIME. OH, DEAR. I HOPE SHE'S-NICE-

MATT'LL BE HERE ANY MINUTE. I'D BETTER HURRY. HE'S GETTING AWFULLY SERIOUS. I DON'T KNOW--

IF HE LOVED ME, HE'D FIND ME AND COME TO ME. WHY FOOL MYSELF? HE RAN AWAY FROM ME. HE'LL NEVER COME BACK.

I MUSTN'T BE MORBID-AND DREAM OF WHAT'S GONE. LIFE MUST GO ON-A GIRL MUST MARRY EVENTUALLY--

MATT'S A NICE BOY. BUT CAN I EVER FORGET HIM? I MUST! I WILL! AND YET-CAN I?

THAT WAS A LOVELY PARTY, MATT
WONDERFUL NIGHT. HOW ABOUT A WALK ON THE BEACH?
10-20

OHH~ HIGH HEELS AND SAND DON'T MIX.
DARLING, I CAME HERE TO DISCUSS ROMANCE ~NOT FOOTWEAR. BE SERIOUS!

WE'VE HAD GOOD TIMES TOGETHER. WHY SHOULD WE PRETEND TO BE SERIOUS?
PRETEND?

HOW ABOUT THIS? I WANT TO MARRY YOU, DIANA.
MATT~~

DIANA, PLEASE SAY "YES". I'VE NEVER ASKED ANYONE TO MARRY ME, BEFORE~
MATT~YOU'RE A WONDERFUL BOY~ANY GIRL WOULD BE LUCKY TO~~

I TAKE IT THAT MEANS YES. DIANA, DARLING~~
I~ GUESS~I~

DIANA!
10-21

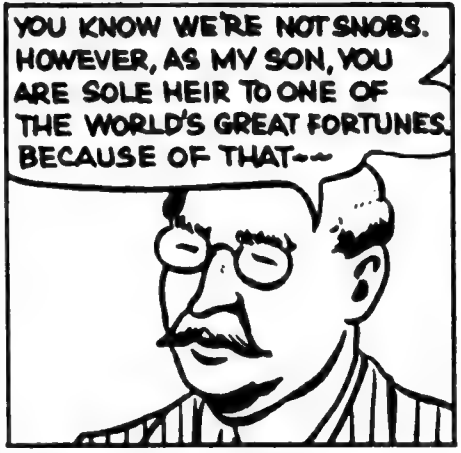
DIANA~~ WAIT!

WHY DID YOU RUN LIKE A FRIGHTENED DEER? I ASKED YOU TO MARRY ME ~ IS THAT SO HORRIBLE?
OH, NO~~

I PROMISED MOTHER AND DAD I'D BRING YOU TO MEET THEM. WILL YOU COME?
OF COURSE.

AND WILL YOU MARRY ME?
I~I'D LOVE TO MEET YOUR PARENTS~~
10-22

DIANA'S COMING FOR DINNER TONIGHT!
MATT, YOUR MOTHER AND I WANT TO HAVE A CHAT WITH YOU~ABOUT HER.


YOU KNOW WE'RE NOT SNOBS. HOWEVER, AS MY SON, YOU ARE SOLE HEIR TO ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT FORTUNES. BECAUSE OF THAT~~

~YOU HAVE UNUSUAL RESPONSIBILITIES. YOUR SELECTION OF A WIFE IS IMPORTANT. NOW~ THIS GIRL~~
I KNOW ALL THAT, DAD.

DIANA IS SUPER-WONDERFUL! YOU'LL LOVE HER!
I HOPE SO, DEAR.
10-23

IS THIS THE STATE UNIVERSITY?
NOW, DIANA! ~ IT'S OUR SUMMER HOME.

THE FOLKS ARE ANXIOUS TO MEET YOU. ARE YOU COLD?
NO. SCARED

MOTHER, DAD~ THIS IS DIANA~~

MATT, SHE'S A LOVELY GIRL WITH FINE CHARACTER.
OH, DAD, MOM! DIDN'T I TELL YOU!?

DARLING, YOU'VE CLICKED WITH THE FOLKS. NOW~HAVE THEY CLICKED WITH YOU?
DON'T BE SILLY. THEY'RE WONDERFUL.

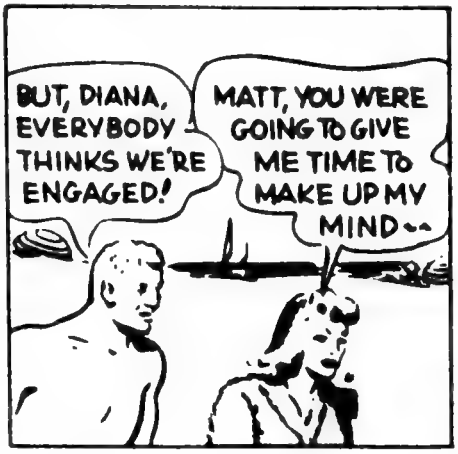
OUR MATT IS A LUCKY BOY, DIANA. I KNOW YOU'LL BE HAPPY.
OH, YES, I~~

THEY'RE TAKING EVERYTHING FOR GRANTED! THIS IS GOING TOO FAST~TOO FAST~
10-23

Diana Palmer and Matt Mallon, here to
wed millions. Their engagement will
be announced soon according to intimates.

DAVE! DIANA --IN THE PAPER! GOING TO BE ENGAGED!
WHAT!

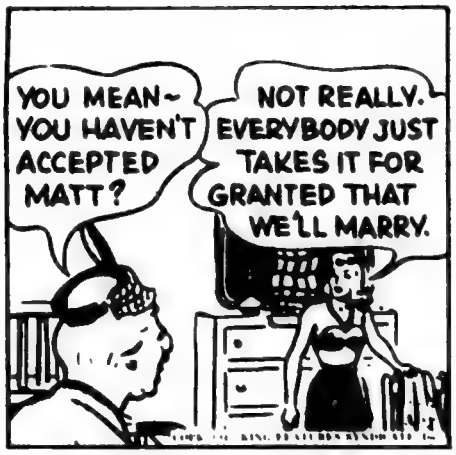
SEE! US! YOU CAN'T BACK OUT NOW!
EVERYBODY'S PUSHING ME INTO IT! EVEN THE PAPERS!
10-27


BUT, DIANA, EVERYBODY THINKS WE'RE ENGAGED!
MATT, YOU WERE GOING TO GIVE ME TIME TO MAKE UP MY MIND--

DIANA, DARLING! WE READ ABOUT IT IN THE PAPER! WE FLEW RIGHT DOWN!
MAMA! UNCLE DAVE!

YOU MUST BE MATT. I'M SO HAPPY ABOUT YOU AND DIANA, MY DEAR BOY!
THANK YOU, MRS. PALMER.

IT LOOKS LIKE MY MIND'S BEING MADE UP FOR ME!
10-28


YOU MEAN- YOU HAVEN'T ACCEPTED MATT?
NOT REALLY. EVERYBODY JUST TAKES IT FOR GRANTED THAT WE'LL MARRY.

ANY GIRL WOULD JUMP AT THE CHANCE. MATT'S A FINE BOY! AND HIS FATHER'S ONE OF THE WORLD'S RICHEST MEN!

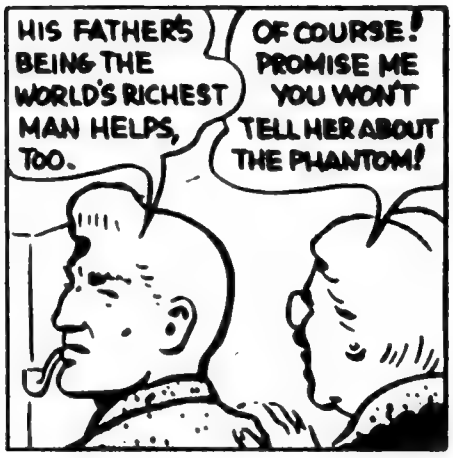
IF YOU'RE STILL MOONING ABOUT THAT MASKED BARBARIAN WHO LIVES IN CAVES AND RUNS AROUND WITH SAVAGES- DON'T FORGET--

-HE LEFT YOU IN THE LURCH- RAN OFF WITH ANOTHER GIRL! IF YOU HAVEN'T ANY SENSE, YOU SHOULD HAVE SOME PRIDE!
HMMM.
10-29

LILY, DON'T YOU THINK DIANA SHOULD KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT THE PHANTOM?

~THAT HE DIDN'T REALLY DESERT HER~
NO, DAVE. LET WELL ENOUGH ALONE. I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRUEL, BUT--

~SHE HAD TO FORGET THE PHANTOM SOMEDAY! HE BELONGS IN THE JUNGLE! MATT'S A FINE BOY, OF HER OWN CLASS~
10-30


HIS FATHER'S BEING THE WORLD'S RICHEST MAN HELPS, TOO.
OF COURSE! PROMISE ME YOU WON'T TELL HER ABOUT THE PHANTOM!

DIANA, PROMISE ME YOU'LL SAY "YES" TO MATT TONIGHT.
OH, MAMA, I'M SO TIRED OF FIGHTING YOU AND MATT AND EVERYBODY--

QUITE A PARTY TONIGHT, MATT.
I HOPE IT'LL BE THE NIGHT, DIANA. LET'S GO OUT INTO THE GARDEN.

FOR THE UMPTEENTH TIME, PLEASE SAY YOU'LL MARRY ME, DIANA.
I--I-- CAN'T~ I -- YES~

DIANA! AT LAST!
10-31

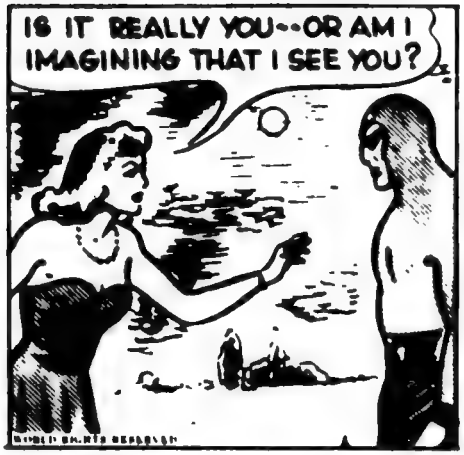
LET'S TELL THE GANG WE'RE GETTING MARRIED, DIANA!
NOT RIGHT AWAY. LET ME BE ALONE FOR A FEW MINUTES, PLEASE, MATT.

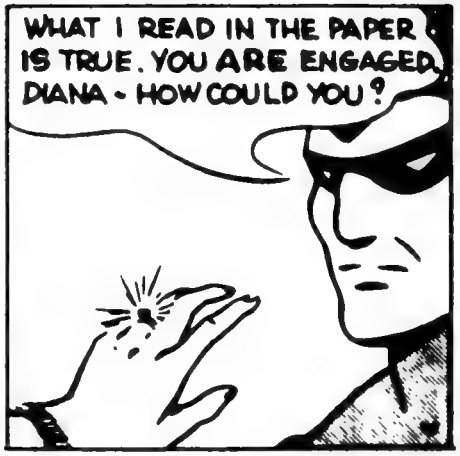
I MIGHT AS WELL MARRY MATT. WHY FOOL MYSELF? HE'LL NEVER COME BACK. WAS HE REAL? DID I EVER REALLY KNOW HIM?

EVERY GIRL HAS HER DREAM PRINCE. PERHAPS THE PHANTOM WAS MINE. SOMEONE WONDERFUL AND PERFECT-- WHOM I ONLY IMAGINED--

MAYBE HE WAS ONLY A DREAM~THAT DIDN'T COME TRUE--
11-1

YOU!
DIANA!

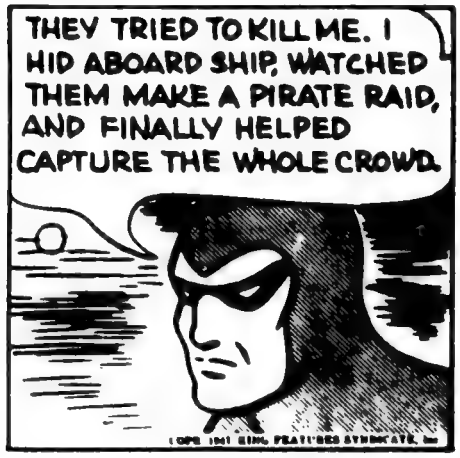

IS IT REALLY YOU--OR AM I IMAGINING THAT I SEE YOU?


WHAT I READ IN THE PAPER IS TRUE. YOU ARE ENGAGED, DIANA - HOW COULD YOU?

HOW COULD I? YOU WENT AWAY. WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
IT'S A LONG STORY, DIANA. IT STARTED THE DAY I WENT TO GET A RING FOR YOU~

YOU REMEMBER THE BLONDE GIRL YOU THOUGHT I WAS FLIRTING WITH? I FOLLOWED HER TO HER SHIP~~
YOU ADMIT IT?

I WANTED HER TO TELL YOU THERE WAS NOTHING BETWEEN US! BUT IT WAS A PIRATE SHIP. SHE WAS ONE OF THE GANG!


THEY TRIED TO KILL ME. I HID ABOARD SHIP, WATCHED THEM MAKE A PIRATE RAID, AND FINALLY HELPED CAPTURE THE WHOLE CROWD.

WHAT A STORY!
DIANA, YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME! IT'S ALL TRUE!

AFTER I WAITED MONTHS FOR YOU ~ DREAMED ABOUT YOU ~~ REFUSED TO BELIEVE WHAT MAMA OR ANYONE ELSE SAID ABOUT YOU ~~

~REFUSED A FINE BOY LIKE MATT WHO LOVES ME AND WANTS TO MARRY ME~~ REFUSED HIM BECAUSE I COULDN'T FORGET YOU~~

~NOW YOU RETURN~~ WITH A SILLY STORY ABOUT PIRATES THAT A TEN-YEAR-OLD CHILD WOULD KNOW YOU'VE MADE UP! MAMA WAS RIGHT~~

~YOU'RE JUST AN ADVENTURER! I'M GOING TO MARRY MATT!

DIANA~ WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?
MATT~WILL YOU MARRY ME RIGHT AWAY?

WHAT? GEE~BUT WHY~~?
NO QUESTIONS, PLEASE! WILL YOU MARRY ME AT ONCE?

GOLLY-NED!!! OF COURSE! THE LICENSE HAS BEEN BURNING A HOLE IN MY POCKET FOR A WEEK!

HEY, PETE, STOP THE MUSIC A MINUTE. I'VE GOT AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO OUR WEDDING~TOMORROW!

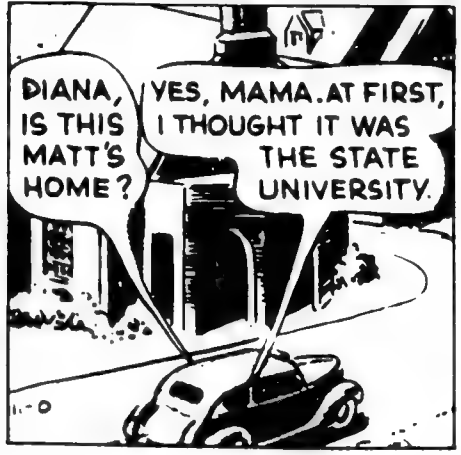
I'M GLAD IT'S SETTLED, MATT. BUT WHAT'S THE RUSH?
I WANT TO MAKE IT LEGAL BEFORE SHE CHANGES HER MIND, DAD!

OH, DARLING, I'M SO HAPPY! HE'S A LUCKY BOY, GETTING MY LITTLE LAMBY-DUMPLING.

DIANA, DARLING, YOU LOOK RADIANT. ONE MORE PIN, AND YOU'RE ALL READY TO GO!
PLEASE HURRY, MAMA.

HOW LOVELY! BUT SMILE, DIANA. BRIDES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE HAPPY!
I AM. UNCLE DAVE.

THIS IS THE HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE, DAVE. I WAS ALWAYS AFRAID SHE'D SETTLE DOWN IN A CAVE~ WITH THAT PERSON!


DIANA, IS THIS MATT'S HOME?
YES, MAMA. AT FIRST, I THOUGHT IT WAS THE STATE UNIVERSITY.

WHAT A LOVELY BRIDE! COME UPSTAIRS TO YOUR ROOM, DIANA.
THANK YOU, MR. MATTON.

DIANA'S HERE, MATT. THE CEREMONY WILL START IN A FEW MINUTES.
THANKS. DAD.

OH, BOY!

WHAT IN--! WHO ARE YOU?
NEVER MIND. YOU LOOK LIKE A DECENT MAN--

YOU'RE MARRYING THE FINEST GIRL IN THE WORLD. IF YOU EVER DO ANYTHING TO HURT HER--

--YOU'LL SEE ME AGAIN!

GONE! WHO-- WAS HE?

THERE'S THE ORGAN MUSIC-- IN A FEW MINUTES, I'LL LOSE MY CHILD--
NOW, LILY--

I'LL --(SOB)-- WAIT DOWN-STAIRS. YOUR UNCLE DAVE--(SOB--SOB)-- WILL GIVE YOU AWAY--! OH, MY LITTLE GIRL --(SOB)--

DIANA, I KNOW IT'S BAD LUCK FOR THE GROOM TO SEE THE BRIDE --BEFORE THE WEDDING--

--BUT I HAD TO SEE YOU! A MASKED MAN IN A STRANGE COSTUME WAS IN MY ROOM. HE--
WHAT!

A MASKED MAN IN A STRANGE COSTUME! HE SAID YOU WERE THE FINEST GIRL IN THE WORLD, AND IF I HURT YOU~I'D SEE HIM AGAIN! DIANA~WHO IS HE?
HE DARED~TO COME HERE?
11-13

I DEMAND TO KNOW WHO HE IS!
ALL IN GOOD TIME, MATT. WAIT OUTSIDE. I WANT TO SPEAK TO DIANA ALONE.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT THE PHANTOM~~ BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, UNCLE DAVE?

THE PHANTOM TOLD YOU THE TRUTH! HE WAS CAPTURED BY PIRATES!
HOW DO YOU KNOW?

I SAW THEM~ IN PRISON! THE WHOLE VICIOUS GANG~THE "VESTA" PIRATES!
I READ ABOUT THEM IN THE PAPER~~

HIS PART WAS HUSHED UP! HE RISKED HIS LIFE TO DESTROY THEM~AND BRING THAT GIRL BACK TO TELL YOU HE WASN'T FLIRTING WITH HER!

HE BROUGHT HER HOME~ BUT YOU WERE GONE!
HE DID ALL THAT~FOR ME! AND I DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM~~
11-14

I SAID HORRIBLE THINGS TO HIM~I MUST FIND HIM~HE WAS JUST HERE~

GIVE THEM MY REGRETS! TELL THEM I CAN'T GET MARRIED TODAY~~

DIANA~WHERE ARE YOU GOING? TELL ME ABOUT THE MASKED MAN LATER! WE'RE READY TO START!

UNCLE DAVE WILL EXPLAIN. FORGIVE ME, MATT~IT'S FOR THE BEST. GOOD-BYE~~
GOOD-BYE? HEY~!
11-15

I CAN'T MARRY YOU. I HOPE YOU'LL ALWAYS BE HAPPY~GOOD-BYE, MATT. PLEASE DON'T FOLLOW ME!
DIANA, WAIT!

DAVE ~ WHAT HAPPENED?
DIANA CHANGED HER MIND.

BUT~SHE CAN'T RUN AWAY NOW! WITH THE WEDDING ABOUT TO BEGIN!
I'M AFRAID SHE CAN~ AND HAS!

11-17

LEAVING THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD AT THE ALTAR!
LOVE AND ECONOMICS DON'T ALWAYS MIX, LILY.

THE TERRIBLE THINGS I SAID TO HIM~I MUST FIND HIM, IF I HAVE TO CRAWL AROUND THE WORLD ON MY KNEES.

DIANA~ WE'LL FIND HIM.
HOW? WHERE? IT'S LIKE TRYING TO FIND A WILL-O-THE-WISP OR THE END OF THE RAINBOW.

* "MR. WALKER"~ FOR THE GHOST WHO WALKS.
HE CALLS HIMSELF MR. WALKER IN CIVILIZATION. IN SOME HOTEL THERE'LL BE A MR. WALKER, WITH A DOG LIKE A WOLF.
11-18

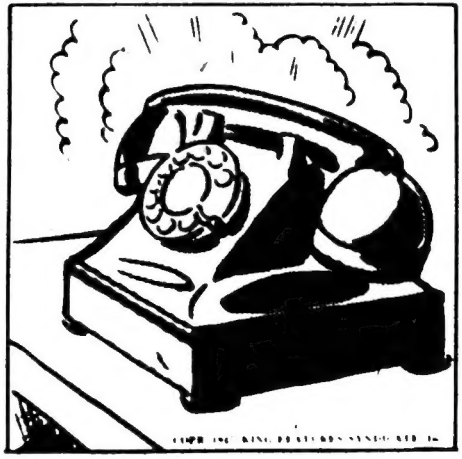
I MESSED THIS UP IN GREAT STYLE, DEVIL. BUT IF DIANA'S HAPPY, THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.

NOON! DIANA'S MARRIED NOW. WELL~TIME FOR US TO DRESS AND LEAVE, DEVIL. BACK TO THE DEEP WOODS.

IT'S NO USE. YOU'VE TRIED TWENTY HOTELS.
HERE'S THE LAST ONE. HELLO, IS THERE A MR. WALKER REGISTERED THERE?

MR. WALKER? WITH A DOG LIKE A WOLF? UH~YES, SIR. HE'S REGISTERED HERE. I'LL RING HIS ROOM.
11-19

WE'VE ONLY A FEW MINUTES TO REACH THE AIRPORT, DEVIL. WE'D BETTER HURRY.



I'M SORRY, SIR. MR. WALKER'S NOT IN HIS ROOM~HE CHECKED OUT~OOP~I JUST SAW HIM LEAVE FOR THE AIRPORT~~~

JUST MISSED HIM!
I'LL BET HE'S TAKING THE ORIENT CLIPPER! HURRY, WE'VE GOT ONE LAST CHANCE TO CATCH HIM! I'LL CALL THE AIRPORT!
11-20

MESSAGE FOR MR. WALKER.
MUST BE ANOTHER "MR. WALKER". NOBODY KNOWS I'M HERE

FASTER, UNCLE DAVE! FASTER!
AIRPORT'S RIGHT AROUND THE NEXT TURN! HE MUST HAVE RECEIVED OUR MESSAGE!

I CAN SEE HIM~AND DEVIL~ GOING INTO THE PLANE. THEY'RE STARTING.

DARLING~ DARLING~~ WAIT~~!
11-21

HE DIDN'T SEE ME~SO NEAR~YET SO FAR~~
11-22

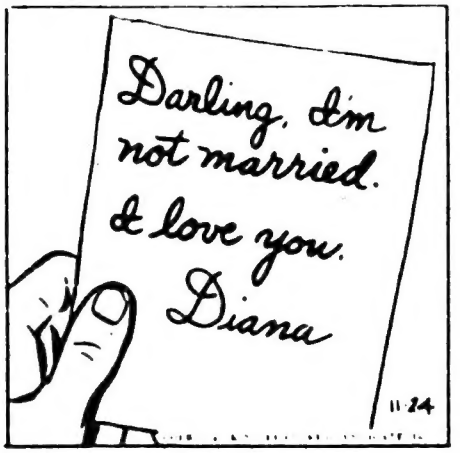
LUCK'S AGAINST ME. I'M BEING PUNISHED~FOR WHAT I DID~~
NONSENSE~ WE JUST HAD A TOUGH BREAK~WE'LL REACH HIM BY RADIO~~

DIANA'LL BE STARTING HER HONEYMOON NOW~~

WE WANT TO SEND A RADIO MESSAGE TO THE CLIPPER THAT JUST TOOK OFF.
SORRY, SIR. WE'RE NOT PERMITTED TO TRANSMIT PERSONAL MESSAGES.

BUT MOST COMPANIES PERMIT RADIO MESSAGES TO BE SENT
NOT US. EMERGENCY MESSAGES ONLY.
PLANE TICKETS

THIS IS DEFINITELY AN EMERGENCY. PLEASE SEND THIS TO MISTER WALKER ON THE ORIENT CLIPPER.


Darling, I'm not married. I love you. Diana
11-24

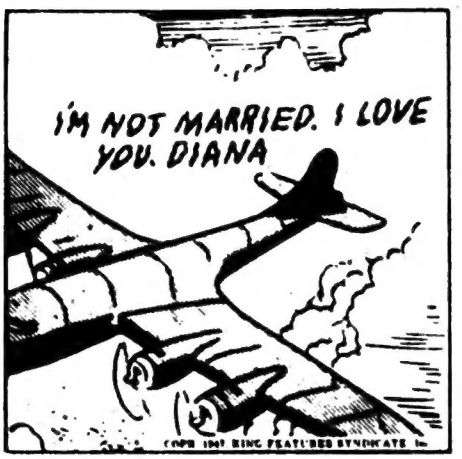
BUT~THIS ISN'T AN EMERGENCY
IT IS TOO! IT'S A QUESTION OF LIFE OR DEATH!

"I'M NOT MARRIED. I LOVE YOU. DIANA." HMM, I'LL HAVE TO GET AN OK. TO RADIO THIS, FROM MY BOSS.

WAIT A MINUTE~~
I'LL CHECK THAT.
MANAGER
2ND VICE PRES

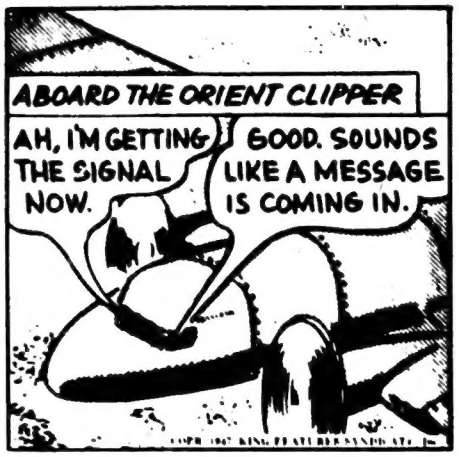
I'LL SEE
BETTER CLEAR THAT UPSTAIRS
1ST VICE PRES
PRESIDENT

SHE WANTS TO RADIO THAT TO A PASSENGER ON THE CLIPPER? I'LL GIVE MY PERSONAL OK! DEFINITELY AN EMERGENCY!
11-25
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD


I'M NOT MARRIED. I LOVE YOU. DIANA

MEANWHILE, ABOARD THE CLIPPER~
OUR RECEIVER'S ON THE FRITZ. I'M NOT GETTING THE SIGNAL.
SEE IF YOU CAN FIX IT.

I'M SORRY, MISS PALMER. WE CAN'T CONTACT THE PLANE.
ISN'T THIS MADDENING!? HE THINKS I'M MARRIED BY NOW! KEEP TRYING, PLEASE!
11-26
PLANE TICKETS


ABOARD THE ORIENT CLIPPER
AH, I'M GETTING THE SIGNAL NOW.
GOOD. SOUNDS LIKE A MESSAGE IS COMING IN.

"MISTER WALKER"~ FOR THE GHOST WHO WALKS.
RADIO MESSAGE FOR MISTER WALKER.
THAT MUST BE ~ME~~

I'M NOT MARRIED. I LOVE YOU. DIANA

I WANT TO GET OFF RIGHT NOW!
BUT, SIR, WE'RE OVER THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN!
11-27

I'VE GOT TO GET OFF THIS PLANE. GIVE ME A PARACHUTE!
SIR, OUR NEXT STOP IS BENGALI. WE'RE OVER MID-OCEAN. PLEASE SIT DOWN- ~AND-ER~REST.

SHE LOVES ME, DEVIL! SHE'S NOT MARRIED!
SMACK

THE ORIENT CLIPPER LANDS AT MORRISTOWN ON THE BENGALI COAST~~

SIR, WAIT UNTIL THE PLANE STOPS!
CAN'T! GOT TO MAKE A PHONE CALL!
11-28

I WANT TO MAKE A RADIO-TELEPHONE CALL TO AMERICA. MISS DIANA PALMER. THE NUMBER IS~~

DIANA! A PHONE CALL ~FROM BENGALI! GUESS WHO!
GIVE ME THAT TELEPHONE!

DIANA, I GOT YOUR MESSAGE~I'LL BE BACK~
DARLING ~I COULDN'T MARRY HIM~ ~!~~

I LOVE YOU~~ SMACK-SMACK
I LOVE YOU TOO~~~ HURRY BACK~~ SMACK-SMACK~~~
11-29